



The reason I remain a Christian is because I want to live a beautiful life. Judgments of beauty require an aesthetic, some criterion which separates the ugly from the beautiful. In order to live a beautiful life, you need some way to define beauty.

The way I found my aesthetic was by asking myself three questions:

*Who, living or dead, do I admire the most?*

*What moves me to tears?*

*What shakes my soul?*

I've found that Jesus of Nazareth is my aesthetic.

He's how I define a beautiful life. I've noticed in my heart that every time a human action moved my soul or brought tears to my eyes that action reminded me of Jesus.

Because I want to live a beautiful life, I follow Jesus.

~Jesse Turri

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
WELCOME SUNDAY

August 14, 2016

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

*(Please pass the information pads so that all worshippers  
might have the opportunity to sign them.)*

\* Invocation (*Unison*)

Marion Rhyne

Holy Fountain of rest and healing, we are a scattered people, a gathering who come to celebrate the joy of being called by you, a faith band in the midst of a busy nation with its own affairs. We gather in the memory of witnesses old, who, through faith, conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, won strength out of weakness. We come to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus as our guide. Be here among us, deep within us, as we gather in the name of the Holy One who is our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

\* Passing of the Peace

Marion Rhyne

One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of God's peace, for the peace of Christ is here to stay.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

\* *All rise in body or spirit* ☩ *Sing Response* ✕ *Hymnals located below pews*

“Gather Us In”

Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
Shadows of doubt are vanished away:  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
Gather us in, our spirits inflame.  
Call to us now and we shall awaken,  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

Not just in buildings, small and confining,  
Not in some heaven light-years away,  
Here in this place the new light is shining,  
Now is God present, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
Gather us in and make us your own,  
Gather us in, all peoples together -  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

“Instrument”

Where there is hatred Lord, let me sow your love  
Where there's injury, let forgiveness be enough  
Are we giving up, fighting the good fight  
Where there is despair, just a flicker in the flame  
Could break the veil of night

*Refrain: Creator God and Son*

*O, Holy Spirit, three in One*

*I offer you myself, though I'm broken and spent*

*Let me be Your instrument*

May I never seek, to be consoled as to console  
May I understand, to be loved is to love, to be loved is to love

Oh praise God, Halleluiah

I offer you myself, though I'm broken and spent

Let me be Your instrument

Let there be peace, pardoned in the pardoning  
Born again when we die, You have raised us to new life

Children's Offering & Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

*(Following the Children's Message, pre-schoolers may go to extended care and those in kindergarten through fifth grade to Children's Church.)*

Gift of Music

"Oceans"

Houston, Crocker, Lighthelm

*Judah Jones with the Holy Covenant Music Cooperative*

You call me out upon the waters  
The great unknown where feet may fail  
And there I find You in the mystery  
In oceans deep, my faith will stand

*Chorus: And I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine*

Your grace abounds in deepest waters  
Your sovereign hand will be my guide  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me  
You've never failed and You won't start now *Chorus*

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever You would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Savior

Our Time of Prayer Together

Nancy Ellett Allison

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Renee Brown

By faith the Israelites passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground....

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“On a Pilgrimage of Faith”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Renee Brown

Offertory

Jared Fischer

\* Offering Response 55

MARION

☩ **Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,  
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God forevermore  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

\* Offertory Dedication

Renee Brown

## Reception of New Members

### Questions of the Candidates

### Response of the Congregation

One: Will the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ please rise and join in our mutual promise and welcome?

- \* Many: We welcome each of you and celebrate your journey of faith. We promise to search with you for truth in Scripture, word and witness; to walk with you in life's joys and sorrows; to support you when life is shaken; to laugh with you when life lifts your spirit; to share silence, song and sacrament; and to grow in Christian love and mutual appreciation. We will rely on God's sustaining presence as we journey forward together.

### Greeting of Christian Love

Hosts: *On behalf of the entire congregation, it is our pleasure to welcome you as full members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love and welcome.*

Called as partners in Christ’s service,  
Called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
Side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,  
Christ’s clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering,  
Reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer poorer,  
All God’s people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together  
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission,  
In a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other’s burdens,  
Breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,  
Words of challenge, said with care.  
Bring new power and strength for action,  
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person’s sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
Our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace.

\* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

Jared Fischer

*No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

### WELCOME TO HOLY COVENANT

We welcome all who worship with us at Holy Covenant. Guests and members, we invite you to sign our friendship pads so that we may have a record of your worshipping with us and be in touch with you during the week. We are an Open and Affirming, progressive Christian church welcoming all. Please join us in the Gathering Room after worship for fellowship and refreshments.

### WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome new members Scotty Foster & Christy Jarrett, Eileen Howe, Rich & Cheryl Midkiff, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Diane Rogers, Steve & Janette Turner, and Sarah Wilds. Many thanks to our hosts, Lori Cipot, Barry Holcomb, John Maze & Ben Hale, Cheryl Milam, Jeff Rivenbark, Barb Schneller, and David & Kay Smith for guiding our new members.

## **WELCOME BABY MATTHEW**

Please join us following worship to celebrate and welcome baby Matthew Burleson, in an all church baby shower. Reception hosted by the Hospitality Committee.

## **DEALING WITH CONFRONTATIONAL BEHAVIOR, TODAY 1PM**

We are hosting a meeting with a Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Officer **today at 1 pm** in the Conference Room to explore ways to effectively de-escalate tense conversations.

## **AUGUST 21 CENTENNIAL GUEST PREACHER, REV. DR. LEE JESSUP, JR**

The Rev. Dr. D. Lee Jessup, Jr.'s first full time pastorate was with our congregation from 1976-1980. He went on to serve First Reformed UCC in Lexington and then became the VP of Development for United Church Retirement Homes in 1993. He has recently retired as the President/CEO of The United Way of Davidson County, serving there from 2001-2015. Lee and his wife, Mary Jo, remained "favorites" of our long-time congregants and we are delighted to "re-introduce" his wit and wisdom to our congregation.

## **REUSE A SNEAKER - DONATE THOSE OLD STINKY THINGS!**

The Earth Care team announces Reuse a Sneaker drive. The project, with collections of any brand sneakers that have reached the end of their useful life, recycles and transforms them into *Nike Grind*, a material used in creating athletic and playground surfaces, as well as select Nike products. As you prepare for the beginning of school and fall cleaning consider a new life for your old gym shoes. Drop off your old *tennies*, August 7 to September 11, in the collection bin in the gathering room. (Regular shoes are not included in this project.)

## **BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS TIME FOR BACKPACK MINISTRY**

The Backpack Ministry supports hungry children at David Cox Elementary School and Morehead Academy, feeding students and younger siblings each weekend. Bring your food gifts of small sized protein, vegetables, soup, starches, fruit, breakfast items or a snack. ***Don't have time to shop? Make a donation and a personal shopper will do the rest!***

## CHARLOTTE PRIDE'S ANNUAL INTERFAITH SERVICE TODAY 4PM

All are welcome to attend an interfaith experience celebrating the dignity, value and worth of all people. First United Methodist Church 501 N. Tryon St., Charlotte. Refreshments following.

## 2016 PRIDE FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Charlotte PRIDE, annual festival August 19, 20 & 21. We volunteers from Holy Covenant be present throughout the weekend. Please sign up in the gathering room or contact Phil Kaveler, [pwkaveler@yahoo.com](mailto:pwkaveler@yahoo.com).

## BOOK CLUB

Please join us at the Sharon Campus on August 22 for a discussion lead by Sue Pascucci of the book "Marriage of Opposites" by Alice Hoffman. For our September 19th meeting, we have tentatively selected William Kent Kruger's "Ordinary Grace"; discussion lead by Barbara Schneller.

## SANDWICH MINISTRY

Harris Campus, Saturday August 20, at 10:00 AM, Sharon Campus, Wednesday, August 24 at 9:30. Help us make sandwiches for Urban Ministry to provide food for our neighbors who are homeless. DONATIONS WELCOME! We create 100 healthy sandwiches for about \$70.00. Notate "Sandwich Ministry" in the memo of your check.

## HCUCC NURSERY/PRESCHOOL REQUESTS

Many of our little ones are having their first birthdays! We need some items to keep them entertained *and safe* while playing.

-Pool noodles- to use as toddler proof door stoppers---no smashed fingers! and no slammed doors :)

-Beach sand toys-shovels, rakes, molds, sifters, cars and trucks...things for our sand box.

-Outdoor toys- sturdy ones like Little Tyke or Step 2 brands, to ride on or climb...toddler age appropriate items.

Gently used contributions welcomed. See Caryn in the preschool or Dawn in the office.

## **GOODIES FOR GUATEMALA**

The last Sunday of each month there will be a table in the gathering room offering baked goods for donations to help our Guatemala Fund. Look for these goodies after worship August 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:**

Elder of the Month: Tina Ettesen

Greeters: Barb Schneller, Lisa Sherman

Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig

Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Susan Godfrey, Tom Magraw, Barb Rutelonis

Tabulators: Sally McLester, Kathi Smith

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

#### **Members**

Jean Berg, Charlotte Carbone, Karen Griffin, Laura Hankins, Chuck Johnson, Joy Johnson, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelsen, Deb & Yvette Ross, Ed Sharp, Mamie Stokes, Sheryl Stogner, The Family of Paul Bomely

#### **Friends & Family Members**

Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Bill Funderburk (Donna Collins), Charles Haag (Marylou Iantosca), Mike Hinson (Kathi Smith), John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland) Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Milton & Jane Thompson (Kevin Decker), Charles Weaver (Susan Rettberg)

**Holy Covenant United Church of Christ**

**Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor**

**Mr. Jared Fischer, Music Director**

**Mr. Steven Burleson, Youth & Young Adult Pastor**

**Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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