



And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down . . . and I heard a great voice from the throne saying: Behold, the dwelling of God is with mortals.... Behold, I make all things new.

~ Revelation 21:1-5

Nothing is more surprising than the rise of the new within ourselves. We do not foresee or observe its growth. . . .The new being is born in us, just when we least believe in it. It appears in remote corners of our souls which we have neglected for a long time. It opens up deep levels of our personality which had been shut out by old decisions and old exclusions. It shows a way where there was no way before... We cannot force it, and we cannot calculate it. All we can do is to be ready for it.

~ Paul Tillich

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

August 21, 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.)*

Opening Voluntary “Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult”

Jared Fischer

* Invocation (*Unison*)

Phillip Grigsby

God is Spirit, and they that worship God must worship God in spirit and in truth. God is light. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship one with another. God is power. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. God is love. Everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God; and we know that we have passed from death unto life because we love. Glory be to God on high, amen.

* Passing of the Peace

Phillip Grigsby

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*

* Hymn

“We Are One in The Spirit”

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

*Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love*

We will work with each other; we will work side by side
We will work with each other; we will work side by side
'Til each cruel bond is broken, every fell yoke untied. *Refrain*

We hymn the Creator, from whom all things come
We hymn Christ Jesus, God's only Son
We hymn the Spirit, who makes us one. *Refrain*

“O How I Need You”

Lord I find You in the seeking, Lord I find You in the doubt
And to know You is to love You, and to find you in all else

Refrain: I need You, O how I need You!

O how I need You, O how I need You! (1st time: back to Verse 1)

Lord I find You in the morning, Lord I seek You everyday,
Let my life be for Your glory, woven in Your threads of grace. *Refrain*

Light, glorious light, I will go where You shine
Break the dawn, crack the skies, make the way bright before me
In Your light I will find all I need, all I need is You. (2x) *Refrain (2x)*

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.)*

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Psalm 77: 1-7

Lee Jessup

I cry aloud to God, that God may hear me.

In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;

 in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;

 my soul refuses to be comforted.

I think of God, and I moan;

 I meditate, and my spirit faints.

You keep my eyelids from closing;

 I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

I consider the days of old,

 and remember the years of long ago.

I commune with my heart in the night;

 I meditate and search my spirit:

‘Will the Lord spurn forever,

 and never again be favorable?

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 502

“Dear God Embracing Humankind”

REST

(stanzas 1,2,5)

Our Time of Prayer Together

Kristin Andes

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison) *Adapted from a prayer by Howard Thurman*

The concern, which I lay before God today, is my concern for the life of the world in these troubled times. I confess my own inner confusion as I look out upon the world.

There is food enough for all - many are hungry.

There is opportunity enough for all - many are oppressed.

There is justice enough for all - many are denied it.

There are none who want war - preparations for conflict abound.

I confess my own share in the ills of the times. I have shirked my own responsibilities as a citizen. I have been concerned about my own little job, my own little security, my own shelter, my own bread. I have not really cared about jobs for others, security for others, shelter for others, bread for others. I have silenced my voice that it may not be

heard on the side of any cause, however right, if it meant running risks or damaging my own little reputation.

Forgive me O God, Let Thy light burn in me that I may, from this moment on, take effective steps within my own power, to live up to the light and to courageously pay for the kind of world I so deeply desire.

Renew my soul as together we pray...

The Lord's Prayer (*NCH Page 9, option B, using 'sins'*)

Assurance of Pardon

Kristin Andes

As from the cross Jesus flung forgiveness into the world, so may we know and live that forgiveness today. May courage be our witness to the faithfulness of God!

Prayer Response 769 "Hear our Prayer O God"

TRADITIONAL

Hear our prayer, O God,
Hear our prayer, O God;
In-cline your ear to us,
And grant us your peace.

Epistle Lesson

Revelation 21: 1-5

Nancy Ellett Allison

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be God's peoples, and God will be with them; God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Gloria Patri



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now, and e - ver shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

Sermon "A Long Time Ago in a City Far, Far Away" Lee Jessup

Offertory Invitation Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Jared Fischer

* Offering Response



We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
All that we have, is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. A-MEN.

* Offertory Dedication Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Lee Jessup

Postlude Jared Fischer

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.

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.

UPPER ROOM MINISTRY AT UMC, AUGUST 22-26

Holy Covenant continues to participating in the Upper Room Ministry at Urban Ministries Center in uptown Charlotte on August 22nd through 26th from 12-12:30. If you are interested in participating or would like to find out more about this area of ministry, contact Phil Kaveler at pwkaveler@yahoo.com or 704-547-4473.

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

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.

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 28th.

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.)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE COOKIE AT A TIME

Kairos, a weekend transformational program at the Southern Correctional Institute in Troy, where inmates are loved on and taught about Christ is hosting an event on September 11, 2016. Part of this includes giving the ladies homemade cookies. The goal is to provide 50 dozen. Can you help? Please deliver your home baked cookies to the church freezer, by Sunday, **September 4th**. Please contact Joy Johnson at joy.johnson1977@gmail.com or 704-701-7665 for detailed instructions. The prison has very strict requirements so please be sure you get the specifics before baking!

A DAY AWAY: HONORING YOUR SPIRIT, YOUR STORY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016, 9:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Strengthen your spirit through contemplation, journaling, sharing, silence, and creativity. Led by Nancy Allison and Dana Endsley this will be an opportunity to create a circle of trust and encourage one another to live lives of integrity through honoring our roots, journaling our truth and celebrating our stories. Nancy will lead us in reflection and journaling, Dana will lead us in the creation of "Story Bowls™" which will provide us with a tangible reminder of the blessings of the day. Sign up with Dawn by September 7 at office@holycovenantucc.org.

(Minimum 5 - maximum 12) The cost for lunch and supplies is \$15.

YOGA WEDNESDAYS 7:30 PM

David Smith is leading yoga classes for all levels. For more information, contact David at prizmsongs@gmail.com or 704-533-2142.

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

Elder of the Month: Tina Ettesen
Greeters: Laura Hankins, Judi Lord
Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig
Ushers: Barry Holcomb, Joy Johnson
Tabulators: Lori Cipot, Terry Raley-Dennis

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Leanne Bushman,
Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Karen Griffin, Laura Hankins,
Chuck Johnson, Joy Johnson, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson,
John Rapp, Deb & Yvette Ross, Dave Stoimenoff & Jim Germann,
Mamie Stokes, Sheryl Stogner

Friends & Family Members

Amarless and family (Ben Hall), McKinzie (Sue Godfrey), Rose Bouchonville
(John Maze), Charlotte Carbone, Bill Funderburk, (Donna Collins), Charles
Haag (Marylou Iantosca), Frances Helms (Lynn Helms), John Jacobsen
(Holly Middleton), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette
Shoop), Barbara Lees (Donna Collins), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland),
Pat & JoAnn Murphey (Laura Murphey), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial),
Milton & Jane Thompson (Kevin Decker), Janet Watson (Donna Collins),
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

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510

www.holycovenantucc.org office@holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810