



Our congregation has just as much future as we have - what? Money?
No. Each of us needs to be a faithful steward, but money sometimes creates more problems than it solves.

Members? *No. Some of the largest churches in America have no future beyond the celebrity of the founding pastor.*

(Holy Covenant) has just as much future as we have love.

There has always been a lot of love here, but it cannot be taken for granted. When we are not all on the same page, when unsettling differences arise, when we are afraid, it is then we need to pray for the greatest of all spiritual gifts: Love.

Where the loving Spirit of Christ is, there is the one true church.

~David Matthews

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ~ WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

October 2, 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

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

J. S. Bach

Jared Fischer, piano; Kim Tyler, oboe

* Call to Worship

Deborah Kaufman & J. Randall Mishoe

One: Only the God whom we gather to worship is aware of the decades of gifts, sacrifice and love which undergird this congregation. Our Living God alone recalls the hosts of persons:

Who have greeted strangers and ushered us into worship,

Who have sung the gospel and lifted prayers in harmony,

Who have brought gifts of music, art,

and food to please the senses,

Who have offered gifts of organizing, financing,

and visioning to strengthen the mission,

Who have served as prophets in the pulpit,

presided over baptisms, broken the bread of communion.

Many: Creator God, may we continue to bear witness to your love.

One: We give thanks and rejoice in our co-workers and companions: sharing ministry, challenge, struggle and blessing, living between what was and what will be.

Many: Living God, may we continue to bear witness to your grace and peace.

** All rise in body or spirit ☩ Join in Singing ✕ Hymnals located below pews*

One: We open our lives to this moment, realizing that your Spirit has led us to this place and that it is your Spirit calling us into the future.

Many: Jubilant God, may we continue to bear witness to the hope and joy we find in you.

One: Speak to us, O God, of a church where all are welcome to share the cost and joy of discipleship, where all receive the promise of courage in the struggle for justice and peace.

Many: Just God, may we continue to bear witness to your truth.

One: We pray that the eyes of our hearts be opened to a future of wisdom and grace; May we recognize the hope to which we have been called: Resurrection power making all things new!

Many: God of all our tomorrows, as we thank you for our heritage of faith, may we continue to bear witness to your transforming work in our lives and in this world.

* Passing of the Peace

Deborah Kaufman & J. Randall Mishoe

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.

1. God of the a-ges, who with sure com-mand
brought forth in beau-ty all the star-ry band
of shin-ing worlds in splen-dor through the skies,
our grate-ful songs be-fore your throne a-rise.
2. Your pur-pose, just, en-vi-sions mor-tals free;
God, set our path toward hu-man lib-er-ty.
Still be our rul-er, guard-ian, guide, and stay—
your Word our law, your paths our cho-sen way.
3. From war’s a-larms, from dead-ly pes-ti-lence,
with stead-fast care be ev-er our de-fense;
Your love and faith with-in our hearts in-crease;
with boun-teous good-ness nour-ish us in peace.
4. Re-fresh your peo-ple on life’s toil-some way;
lead us from night to nev-er-end-ing day;
With truth and love guide us through er-ror’s maze,
and we shall give you glo-ry, laud, and praise.

"A New Hallelujah"

φ Can you hear, there's a new song
Breaking out from the children of freedom
Every race and every nation
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

Let us sing love to the nations
Bringing hope of the grace that has freed us
Make it known and make it famous
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

*Chorus: Arise, let the church arise, Let Love reach to the other side.
Alive, come alive, let the song arise.*

Everyone sings a new song
Reaching out with a new Hallelujah
Every son and every daughter
Everyone sing a new Hallelujah. *Chorus*

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.)*

Wisdom Lesson

Psalm 145:1-9

Kristin Andes

I will extol you, my God and Sovereign,
and bless your name forever and ever.

Great is the Living One, and greatly to be praised;
God's greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall praise your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.

The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

The Living God is gracious and merciful;
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

Generations of Generosity

Kristin Andes & David Kelly

Our Time of Prayer Together

Nancy Ellett Allison

Anthem

"Grant Us Thy Peace"

Felix Mendelssohn

Holy Covenant Chancel Choir; David Gilliland, piano

*Grant us thy peace, Almighty God,
Thou source of every blessing.
Feeble and frail, trust we thy word,
All things in thee possessing.
In thee is our hope and safety.*

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 43:15-19

Nancy Ellett Allison

I am the Lord, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King.
Thus says the Living God,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

Sermon

“From Heritage to Horizon”

John Dorhauer

Gift of Music

“Future/Past”

Holy Covenant Cooperative

*You hold the reins on the sun and the moon
Like horses driven by kings
You cover the mountains, the valleys below
With the breadth of your mighty wings*

*All treasures of wisdom and things to be known
Are hidden inside your hand
And in this fortunate turn of events
You ask me to be your friend*

*And you, you are my first, you are my last,
You are my future and my past. (2x)*

*The constellations are swimming inside
The breadth of your desire
Where could I run, where could I hide
From your heart's jealous fire*

Offertory

*(Parents who wish to have their children receive communion
may bring them from Children's Church.)*

* Offering Response 38

WOODLANDS



Lift eve - ry gift that God to us has given;



How lies the best 'til blessed by God in heav'n!



With spi - rits one, with hearts inspired and awed,



We lift them up, we lift them up to God!

* Offertory Dedication

Renee Brown

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified
and risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

One: We come with joy, each a child of God, forgiven, loved and free.

Many:The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me.

One: We come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,

Many:The new community of love in Christ's communion bread.

One: As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.

Many:The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends

One: Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,

Many:And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray.

(from Brian Wren "I Come with Joy")

All: We celebrate this open table, where all are welcome, no exceptions. We share bread and wine with Christians around the world, celebrating that in Christ we are many who can be one, and praying for God's peace that makes us whole. As we drink the cup and eat the bread, may the Spirit be with us, enlivening us with courage and hope to join together in the sacred work of restoring our shared planet.

One: Lift our hearts in unity as together we pray,

All: "Our Father who art in heaven..." The Lord's Prayer (*using 'sins'*)

The Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion is received by intinction. Please take bread or a gluten free wafer and dip it into the cup to receive both elements.

The Communion elements are bread and grape juice.

Music during Communion "Beautiful Things"

φ All this pain, I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change at all.

All this earth, could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

Chorus: You make beautiful things,

You make beautiful things out of the dust;

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of us.

All around, hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos, life is being found in You. *Chorus*

(high voices) You make me new, you are making me new. 4x - *Chorus*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: On this Sunday of World Communion, we give thanks, Living God, for all the members of your universal church; may we be bound together by the spiritual ties of this celebration. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another until all of us come to the unity of faith through the Living Christ. Amen.

* Hymn 57

“Lead On, Eternal Sovereign”

LANCASHIRE

arr. Deborah Kauffman Mishoe & Jared Fischer

* Benediction

John Dorhauer

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.

WELCOME TO OUR RETURNING & FORMER MEMBERS!

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION GUEST PREACHER

REV. DR. JOHN DORHAUER, UCC GENERAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT

Dr. Dorhauer received a B.A. in Philosophy from Cardinal Glennon College, a Master of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary where he studied white privilege and its effects on the church. Passionate about the future of the denomination, John insists “that the Holy Spirit envisions a future in which the United Church of Christ matters.”

2016 COOKBOOK ~ CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AVAILABLE TODAY!

Our Holy Covenant 2016 Cookbook is here and available for purchase in the Gathering Room. The commemorative cookbook contains 350 of our church member recipes and will make wonderful Christmas presents for family and friends. Funds raised will go towards our Guatemala Missions work.

NEW MEMBER & INQUIRERS CLASSES

Would you like to learn more about Holy Covenant and the United Church of Christ? Come to these inquirers classes held in the conference room:

October 9, 9:30 AM - Who We Are ~ What We Believe

October 16, 9:30 AM - UCC/Holy Covenant History

October 23, 9:30 AM - Organization & Opportunities for Involvement

November 1 - Welcome Sunday

Contact the office for more information or to RSVP,
office@holycovenantucc.org.

HANDBELLS ARE RETURNING!

Marion Rhyne is our new Handbells Director, and she wants to meet you! Beginners welcome! Contact Marion about your interest at mjrhyne@vnet.net.

CROP HUNGER WALK, OCTOBER 16

All are welcome to join the Holy Covenant walking hunger fighting team on October 16 at 2:00. To sign up or ask questions, contact Tina Dickens at 704-965-7708 or taichitina@gmail.com

BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS TIME FOR BACKPACK MINISTRY

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!*

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

Elder of the Month: Faye Humphrey

Greeters: Suzanne Lamorey, Sue Pascucci

Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig

Ushers: Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Moses Taylor, Barbara Schneller

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Julie Klever

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

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

Mr. Gregg Walker, Ministry Intern

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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