



Happiness is....
(Please check one)

- "to rejoice in God and for God and because of God." - Augustine
- "nothing else than the vision of the Divine Essence." - Aquinas
- "not contentment, but more power; not peace, but war; not virtue, but proficiency." - Nietzsche
- "a perpetual possession of being well deceived." - Jonathan Swift
- "to transform one's feelings into action." - Madame de Stael
- "knowledge of what is possible." - George Santayana
- "a goal that commands your thoughts, liberates your energy, and inspires your hopes." - Andrew Carnegie
- "a deep state of well-being and wisdom that flourishes in every moment of life." - Matthieu Ricard
- "comes from your own actions." - Dalai Lama
- "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be". - Abraham Lincoln

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 29, 2017

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

* Call to Worship

Martha Bomely

One: When we love God by serving others,

Many: we fulfill the greatest of the commandments.

One: When we share bread with the hungry poor,

Many: then light shall break forth like the morning.

One: When we bring in those who are cast out,

Many: then righteousness shall go before us.

One: When we are foolish to believe that love can save the perishing,

Many: then the message of the cross is being lived and proclaimed.

One: When we stand on our heads to understand the wisdom of God.

Many: then the poor are raised up, the low ones lifted high.

One: When we extend mercy.

Many: we receive mercy.

One: So, let the one who boasts,

Many: boast in the Lord!

One: For God is the source of your life,

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad!

* Passing of the Peace

One: Come, 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 ✕ Seating by Ushers*

“God Loves Everyone”

God is not a man, God is not a white man
God is not a man sitting on a cloud.
God cannot be bought, God will not be boxed in
God will not be owned by religion.

Chorus I: But God is love, God is love, and God loves everyone

God is not a man, God is not an old man
God does not belong to politicians.
God is not a flag, not even American
And God does not depend on a government.

Chorus II: But God is good, God is good, and God loves everyone

Bridge: Far-right wing or democrat, gay or straight or in between
Even the most prejudiced, O God so loves us all
Catholic or Protestant, immigrant or president
Everybody, everybody, love, love, love, love, love, love. *Chorus I*

Children’s Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Hebrew Scripture Lesson

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Living God says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Living God, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for God has a controversy with the people, and will contend with Israel.

‘O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam....

‘With what shall I come before the Living One, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will God be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

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

Gift of Music *from: Biblical Songs, Op. 99* Antonin Dvořák
No. 10: “O sing unto the lord a joyful song”
Jared Fischer, piano; Laura Valles, soprano

Pastoral Prayer Gregg Walker

* Gospel Lesson Matthew 5:1-16

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response (581)

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

φ Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust,
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.

Postlude

Jared Fischer

Caminante, no hay camino. Se hace camino al andar.

Searcher, there is no road.
We make the road by walking.
~ Antonio Machado

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. Members, please indicate any changes in your contact information. We invite our visitors and members to linger following worship and join us in light refreshments and conversation.

NEW MEMBER - INQUIRER'S CLASS FEBRUARY 5

If you would like to learn more about our congregation and the United Church of Christ, attend our last in series Inquirer's Class Sunday, **February 5 at 12:30 PM Elder's Luncheon following worship: Organization & Opportunities for Involvement.**

We will welcome new members on February 12. Please contact Debbie Davis, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com, if you are interested in attending.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION & MENTORS

For the last several weeks Youth Pastor Steven Burleson has been meeting with our students as they think together about matters of faith. They will be confirmed into the congregation March 5th and will be asking an adult member to serve as their mentor in this pilgrimage of faith. Please be in prayer for our students and say "Yes" if you are asked to serve in this role.

GUEST HANNAH MITCHELL, FEBRUARY 19 & 26, 9:45 am

Hannah Mitchell, a local organizer and activist with Green Peace, is leading a workshop on the Sunday mornings of the 19th and 26th of February, in *Organizing and Activist 101 and 102* training with our youth and young adults. It is more important than ever that our youth be involved in grassroots activism to create a more just and equitable world for all of us.

FREE DOCUMENTARY SCREENING OF "DEMOCRACY FOR SALE", FEB. 9

Join Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation, Clean Air Carolina, Greenpeace, and Working Films for this screening to learn more about how money in politics is influencing North Carolina and what you can do to help stop it.

CPCC Central Campus, 1206 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte, the Overcash Building (2nd floor).

ROOM IN THE INN, FEB. 12

How can you help those in need? Check the signup sheet in the gathering room!

SOJOURNERS CLASS~NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING

This coming Sunday, the Sojourners Adult Sunday School class, will be discussing Chapters 6-9 of *The Hundred Story Home* by Kathy IZARD as we continue our book study. All are welcome to join us at 9:45 for some thought-provoking discussion and fellowship, no preparation needed.

BOOK CLUB GATHERING, FEB. 13

For our next meeting, Jon Heaslet will lead our discussion of Gyasi's *Homegoing*, which should provide rich conversation. We meet at SouthPark Christian Church **6650 Park South Drive**. We have tentatively listed *American Dervish* for March. Please bring lists of suggested titles for our future reads.

RECRUITING HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers for the most exciting team at Holy Covenant, the Hospitality Team. The team plans and provides an important part of the Holy Covenant community life. If you have not found a 'niche' to serve in our church, please try hospitality. Please send Contact Micheal Hall at lammhall@aol.com, or connect with him at church.

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

Elder for January:

Michael Baldonado, michaelbaldonado@hotmail.com or 502-541-5957

Recyclers: Linn Finger

Greeters: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Johnson

Ushers: Youth Sunday

Media: Brian Hankins

Tabulators: Debbie Davis, Terry Raley-Dennis

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Steve and Diane Garvey, Karen Griffin, Helen Lambert, Melissa Noll, Irene Mikkelson, Yami Senturias, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Bill Funderburk, CD & Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), Carrie McLelland (Joe McLelland), Jay Patel (Karen Griffin), Tracy Reed (Dawn Simmons), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Tommy Simpson (Cynthia Simpson), David Stoimenoff & Jim Germann

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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Congregational Feedback

We are always seeking to strengthen the worship experience at Holy Covenant. Can you help us by sharing your thoughts? Please tear off and add to the offering plate or pass along to our liturgist today, Gregg Walker.

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| Congregational Music | Really? | Fitting | Perfect |
| “Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing” | | | |
| “God Loves Everyone” | | | |
| “You Are Salt for the Earth” | | | |

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|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|------------|
| Prayers | No | Maybe/Sometimes | Yes |
| Prefer More Time for Silence | | | |
| Prefer More Collective Prayers | | | |

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|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Scripture & Sermon | Really? | Fitting | Perfect |
| Children’s Message | | | |
| Texts | | | |
| Sermon | | | |

Over all Worship Experience
