



Silent Meditation

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

~Bishop Ken Untener

Börta är bra men hema är bast. (*Swedish*)

Away is good, but home best.

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

June 4, 2017

10:55 AM

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 friendship pads so that all worshippers
might have the opportunity to sign them)*

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Sydney Brown

One: Holy Spirit, Giver of life, in the beginning of time, you moved over the face of the waters; even now, you breathe into every living being the breath of life.

Many: Come, Creator Spirit, and renew the whole creation.

One: Holy Spirit, voice of the prophets: you enflame men and women with a passion for your truth, and through them, call your people to ways of justice and compassion.

Many: Come, Spirit of Righteousness, and burn in our hearts.

One: Holy Spirit, Spirit of Jesus: by your power Jesus came to bring good news to the poor and release to those held captive;
Holy Spirit, Advocate, Teacher: You speak to us of the Living Christ, and show us the depth of love.

Many: Come, liberating Spirit, and free us from the power of sin and death. Come, Spirit of Truth, dwell in us and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ.

One: Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame: You filled disciples with joy and courage, empowering them to preach your Word and share your good news.

Many: Holy Spirit, Messenger of Peace: You break down barriers of language, race, and culture, and heal the divisions that separate us.

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

One: Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame: You filled disciples with joy and courage, empowering them to preach your Word and share your good news.

Many: Holy Spirit, Messenger of Peace: You break down barriers of language, race, and culture, and heal the divisions that separate us.

One: Holy Spirit, Alpha and Omega: at the close of the age, all creation will be renewed to sing your praise.

All: Come, Spirit of Power, make us bold witnesses of your redeeming love. Come, Reconciling Spirit, and unite us all in the love. Come, Creator Spirit, and make us new creations!

* Passing of the Peace

Sydney Brown

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

1. Come, O Spir-it, dwell a-mong us,
Come with Pen-te-cos-tal power;
Give the church a strong-er vi-sion,
Help us face each cru-cial hour.
Built up-on a firm foun-d -tion,
Je-sus Christ, the Cor-ner-stone,
Still the church is called to mission
That God's love shall be made known.

2. We would raise our al-le-lu-ias
For the grace of for-mer years;
For to-mor-row's un-known path-way,
Hear, O God, our hum-ble prayers.
In the church's pil-grim jour-ney
You have led us all the way,
Still in pres-ence move be-fore us,
Fire by night and cloud by day.

3. Come, O Spir-it, dwell a-mong us;
Give us words of fire and flame.
Help our strug-gling voic-es praise you,
Glo-ri-fy your ho-ly name.
Good Cre-a-tor, Sav-ior, Spir-it,
Three in One: what mys-ter-y!
We would sing our loud ho-san-nas
Now and through e-ter-ni-ty.

“We Are One in the Spirit”

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord *(repeat)*
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 *(repeat)*
‘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)***

Children’s Message & Offering

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

The Lord’s Prayer *(in many tongues)*

Barry Holcomb

Jeff Edwards-Knight *(English)*, Aida Marcial *(Spanish)*, Michael Yonkovig *(Ukrainian)*, Yasmin Senturias *(Visayan)*, Jana Harrison *(German)*, Sydney Brown *(French)*, Morgan Rush *(Russian)*, Barry Holcomb *(American Sign Language)*, Anne Findley-Chamberlain *(Hawaiian)*, Sally Duffy *(Gullah)*

The Lord’s Prayer

Barry Holcomb

(Please join in the Lord’s Prayer using any version, any language.)

*** Gospel Lesson John 20:19-23**

Michael Yonkovig

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he

had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: Spirit of Life, your breath fills the whole world and holds all things together. If you withdraw your breath everything turns to dust.

Many: Breathe on me breath of God;

One: You are the source of life that brings life to the world, whole life, full life, unhindered, indestructible everlasting life.

Many: Fill me with life anew;

One: the life of Your Spirit which Christ sends into the world is the power of the resurrection which brings us new life.

Many: Breathe on me breath of God;

One: the sending of Your Spirit is the revelation of God's indestructible affirmation of life and marvelous joy in life.

Many: Fill me with life anew;

One: we celebrate and love life so much that we protest against death and all the powers that disseminate death.

Many: Fill me with life anew;

One: help us to join with Your comforting of the sad, healing of the sick, welcoming of strangers, and forgiving of sins.

Many: Breathe on me breath of God;

One: Spirit of God renew the face of the earth.

Many: Fill me with life anew;

One: give us hearts of flesh for hearts of stone;

Many: that we may love as You would love and do what You would do.

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ... Residents of Mesopotamia...Egypt and Libya ... and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'

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

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

Yoel (Joel) 2:18-27, 3:1-5

And the Lord was zealous for His land, and He pitied His people. And the Lord replied and said to His people: Behold I send you the corn, the must, and the oil, and you shall be sated by it, and I will no longer make you a derision among the nations. And the northerner I will distance from you, and I will drive him to a land barren and desolate; its face to the eastern sea and its end to the western sea, and its stench shall ascend and its ill savor shall ascend, for it did great things. Have no fear, O land; rejoice and jubilate, for the Lord has performed great things. Fear not, O beasts of the field, for the dwelling places of the wilderness have become covered with grass, for the trees have borne their fruit, the fig tree and the vine have given forth their strength. And the children of Zion, rejoice and jubilate with the Lord your God, for He gave you the teacher for justification, and He brought down for you rain, the early rain and the late rain in the first month. And the granaries shall be filled with grain, and the vats shall roar with must and oil. And I will repay you for the years that the increasing locust, the nibbling locust, the finishing locust, and the shearing locust have devoured-My great army, which I have sent against you. And you shall eat, eating and being sated, and you shall praise the Name of the Lord your God, Who has performed wonders with you, and My people shall never be ashamed. And you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and I am the Lord your God, there is no other; and My people shall never be ashamed. And it shall come to pass afterwards that I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy; your elders shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And even upon the slaves and the maidservants in those days will I pour out My spirit. And I will perform signs in the heavens and on the earth: Blood, fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall turn to darkness, and the moon to blood, prior to the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever shall call in the name of the Lord shall be delivered, for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be a deliverance, as the Lord said, and among the survivors whom the Lord invites.

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 “Pluralism, Pentecost and Shavu’ot” Rabbi Judith Schindler

Offertory Invitation Nancy Ellett Allison

Offering Music “Skeleton Bones” Music Cooperative

Peel back our ribs again and stand up strong inside our chest.

Breathe into our spirit, breathe into our spirit.

Peel back the veil of time and let us see You with our naked eyes.

We just want to know you, we just want to know you.

Pre-chorus: **Skeleton bones stand at the sound of
Eternity on the lips of the found;
And gravestones roll to the rhythm of the sound of you.
Skeleton bones stand at the sound of**

So separate those doors and let the Sun of Resurrection in.

*Chorus: Oh let us adore the Christ of Glory dressed in love.
Open up your gates before Him, crown Him, stand Him up.*

We want your blood to be flowing through our body and
We want your breath to fill our lungs. **Breathe into our spirit.**

* Offering Response 55

**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

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Hymn

“You Are Good”

**Lord, you are good and your mercy endureth forever! 2x
People from every nation and tongue, from generation to generation,
We worship you, hallelujah, hallelujah,
We worship you for who you are! 2x
And you are good!**

* Benediction

Rabbi Judith Schindler

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. 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.

PLEASE WELCOME GUEST PREACHER, RABBI JUDITH SCHINDLER, Rabbi Emerita of Temple Beth El in Charlotte and Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Tufts University in 1988 (magna cum laude), her Master's from the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles in 1993, and her rabbinic ordination at the Hebrew Union College in New York in 1995. On behalf of Temple Beth El, Rabbi Schindler envisioned and led the creation of four social justice documentaries being utilized across the country, three of which earned Telly Awards. Rabbi Schindler has contributed chapters and articles to more than ten books and is currently researching and co-authoring a book on recharging congregations through civic engagement and moving the religious community from volunteerism to advocacy. We are grateful for her time with us today.

STRENGTHEN CHURCH OFFERING TODAY

We will receive the *Strengthen the Church* special mission offering of the United Church of Christ today. This offering builds the UCC's future. It funds new congregations and renews existing ones. Please join us in supporting this important offering.

NAT GEO DOCUMENTARY, JUNE 11, 9:30 am

HCUCC Earth Care Ministry Team is pleased to present an advanced screening of the National Geographic film *From the Ashes*, a documentary that dives into the complexities of issues around Coal and Coal Ash.

Showing will be Sunday, June 11 in HCUCC Conference Room starting at 9:30 am, prior to Worship. *From the Ashes* captures Americans in communities across the country as they wrestle with the legacy of the coal industry and what its future should be under the Trump Administration. From Appalachia to the West's Powder River Basin, the film goes beyond the rhetoric of the "war on coal" to present compelling and often heartbreaking stories about what's at stake for our economy, health, and climate. *From the Ashes* invites audiences to learn more about an industry on the edge and what it means for their lives.

NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

If you would like to get more involved, learn more about our congregation and the United Church of Christ, and join our church, we encourage you to attend our Inquirer's Classes:

June 18, 9:30 AM: Who We Are & What We Believe

June 25, 9:30 AM: History of UCC & Holy Covenant

July 9, Post Worship Luncheon hosted by Elders and Deacons

Organization & Opportunities for Involvement

July 16, Welcome Sunday!

Childcare will be available for all age children during this time and invite you to join us! Please contact Debbie Davis, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com, if you are interested in attending or have any questions.

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

Elder for June: Jeff Hughes, jeffhugh@msn.com or 704-577-3068

Deacons for June: Martha Bomely, James Hong

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

Greeters: Donna Collins, Lisa Sherman

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

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Renee Brown

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Hospitality

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Jim Humphrey, Helen Lambert, Melissa Noll, Irene Mikkelson, Alice Phelan, Yami Senturias, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), David McLelland (Joe McLelland), Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), Virginia Tomlinson (Tommy Tomlinson), Myra Thompson (Robert Shepherd), Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb)

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

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

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mr. Steven Burlison, Youth & Young Adult Pastor

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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