



Silent Meditation

When I think of the act by which I should enter the Church, nothing gives me more pain than the idea of separating myself from the immense and unfortunate multitude of unbelievers. I have the essential need, and I think I can say the vocation, to move among every class and complexion, mixing with them and sharing their life and outlook, so far that is to say as conscience allows, merging into the crowd and disappearing among them, so that they show themselves as they are, putting off all disguises with me. It is because I long to know them so as to love them just as they are. For if I do not love them as they are, it will not be they whom I love, and my love will be unreal.

~Simone Weil

We have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of our civilization. There is still a voice crying out in terms that echo across the generations, saying: Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you, that you may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven. This love might well be the salvation of our civilization.

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THIRD SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

June 25, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Steven Burleson

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

Terry Raley-Dennis

One: This is a time to celebrate and worship the God who loves us!

**Many: We are grateful and thankful for all God's blessings in our
lives.**

One: We are grateful **the Living One** listens to us in times of trouble
and joy.

Many: God will not turn away from us.

One: God rejoices with us, heals us and restores us.

**Many: Teach us, Holy One, your ways of love, justice and
righteousness.**

One: May the God of all goodness enter into our spirits.

Many: May we worship the God of love and hope in this day.

* Passing of the Peace

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*

1. There’s a wide-ness in God’s mer-cy,
like the wide-ness of the sea;
there’s a kind-ness in God’s jus-tice,
which is more than lib-er-ty.
There’s no place where earth-ly sor-rows
are more felt than in God’s heaven;
there’s no place where earth-ly fail-ings
have such kind-ly judg-ment given.

2. For the love of God is broad-er
than the mea-sures of our minds;
and the heart of the E-ter-nal
is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
If our love were but more faith-ful,
we would glad-ly trust God’s word;
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing
for the good-ness of our God.

“God Loves Everyone”

M. and L. Gungor

**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 Communist, gay or straight or lesbian
Even the most prejudiced, O God so loves us all
Catholic or Protestant, Terrorist or President
Everybody, everybody, love, love, love, love, love, love.**

(Chorus I)

**Far right-wing or Communist, gay or straight or lesbian
Bi or queer or transgender, oh God so loves us all
Catholic or Protestant, Terrorist or President
Everybody, everybody, love, love, love, love, love, love.**

Children’s Message & Offering

Steven Burleson

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

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.'

So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.' Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

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 in Song

“Oh Savior, Let Me Walk with Thee”

Laura Hankins, Karen Long, Yami Senturias

Prayers of the People

Steven Burleson

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 10:24-39

Michael Baldonado

‘A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ‘So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ‘Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ‘Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

“Identity, Inclusion and Embrace” Michael Baldonado

Offertory Invitation

Steven Burleson

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim;
Let all a-dore and praise that sa-cred name.

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Sav-ior trod,
the Lamb vic-to-rious, Christ the Child of God.

Refrain:

2. Each new-born ser-vant of the Cru-ci-fied
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.

Refrain:

3. O Christ, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree,
your death has brought us life e-ter-nal-ly.

Refrain:

4. Set up your throne, that earth’s de-spair may cease,
be-neath the shad-ow of its heal-ing peace.

Refrain:

5. So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be:
praise to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry.

Refrain:

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.

WELCOME THE REV. MICHAEL BALDONADO AS OUR GUEST PREACHER

Michael has been an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ since 2006. He studied Master of Arts in Religion (2003) and Masters of Sacred Theology (2004), with a focus on Christian-Muslim Dialogue, World Christianity and Church Mission, and received these degrees from the Yale Divinity School. He was a minister in the Philippines serving three local churches prior to this and then he became associate chaplain in Akron, Ohio. He served as minister at the St. John United Church of Christ and Salem United Church of Christ in Louisville, Kentucky. He is married to Dr. Yasmin Senturias who is a developmental behavioral pediatrician and they have son, Micah, 15, who regularly shares his gifts in music with us.

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. We will welcome new members July 16.

July 9, Luncheon: Organization & Opportunities for Involvement

Childcare is available for all age children. If you are interested in attending, please contact Debbie Davis, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com.

LOVE OFFERING FOR STEVEN BURLESON

We are so grateful for the faithful ministry Steven has provided to our youth and young adults for these last six years! If you would like to contribute a financial gift to celebrate Steven's ministry, please provide your donation to Martha Bomely prior to July 16.

12x12 SERVE. STAND UP. SHARE.

Take action with Missions & Justice! We need to be heard; we need to act! M&J wants to know how the people of Holy Covenant are responding to the many issues facing our people and our society today. Write your mission, drop it in the basket in the Gathering Room and M&J will track them as the year goes along.

- Join in the HCUCS Earth Care Ministry. Contact Phil Kaveler for additional information, pwkaveler@yahoo.com
- A call to your member of the General Assembly stating your opposition to H.B. 746 would be an important advocacy step on behalf of North Carolinians. The Council's **Gun Violence Prevention** page offers a variety of denominational statements and liturgical resources that you might share to help your elected leaders appreciate your concern from a faith perspective.

SOJOURNERS CLASS~NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING

Join us for a book study of Linda Tirado's Book "Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America".

BOOK CLUB MONDAY

The book club will be meeting at 10:30 a.m. on the second Monday of the month at SouthPark Christian Church. We hope you can join us for great discussions and fellowship. July 10 - *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren, discussion leader Diane Burleson.

2017 CHARLOTTE PRIDE FESTIVAL AND PARADE, AUGUST 26-27

Save the date! HCUCS will have a booth again this year and your participation will be needed. Let's share the word that Holy Covenant and the UCC welcomes all! Contact Joe Kiser, icscoobydoo@icloud.com for more information. www.charlottepride.org

Candid photographs and/or video recording share our work and witness and invite others into the fellowship of our congregation. Some pictures/video may be published in church print publications, on our website or on our official social media sites. If you do not wish to have your image published, please contact the church office by phone or email.

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: Suzanne Lamorey

Greeters: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Johnson

Ushers: Joe Kiser, Eileen Howe, Alice Phelan, Shakti Subramanian

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley-Dennis, Tina Dickens

Refreshments: Beth Sharp

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Linda Burby, Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Bill Funderburk, Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Jean Jamieson (Martha Bomely), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), David McLelland (Joe McLelland), Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Becky Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Myra Thompson (Robert Shepherd), Virginia Tomlinson (Tommy Tomlinson & Alix Felsing), 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 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