



What Intersectionality Looks Like



Silent Meditation

When Jesus talked about the reign of God, he was not prophesying about some easy, danger-free perfection that will someday appear. He was talking about a state of being, a way of living at ease among the joys and sorrows of our world.... This state of being is not something alien or mystical. We don't need to earn it. It is already ours.

~Stephen Mitchell

When we find ourselves loved, we begin to lose our sense of alienation. God's love, and the self-love that it breeds within us, restores to us a sense of real belonging in the world. We stop seeing the world as a place of strangers. We begin to find community--one of the most joyous ways of experiencing God. By community I mean a coming together that puts us in touch with ourselves, with others and with God's presence.

~Sue Monk Kidd

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

July 30, 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

Donna Collins

One: From the mustard seed a great and mighty shrub emerges.

Many: Good things can come from something that seemed so insignificant!

One: The spore of the yeast can leaven the whole loaf of bread.

All: We can be those people who bring hope and peace to God's world.

One: Come, let us praise the God of great and mighty wonders.

All: Let our spirits soar in gratitude for the opportunities God gives us to serve.

* Passing of the Peace

One: We are renewed by the love of God and the love of our sisters and brothers in Christ. So 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*

Every new morning, God gives freely
Hearts that are thankful, strength for the task,
People who love us, joy in our service,
All we have need of, if we but ask.

God will be with us, in all our thinking,
In all our speaking, in all we do;
And as we praise God, by all our actions,
God will be with us, seeing us through.

God in the morning, God in the noontide,
God in the evening, all through the day;
God is within us, and all around us,
God goes before us, all of the way.

“How You Love”

You are jealous for me
Your love's like a hurricane, I am a tree
Bending beneath the weight of your wind and mercy.
When all of a sudden
I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory
And I realize just how beautiful you are
And how great your affections are for me

*Chorus I: And oh how you love us oh
 Oh how you love us, how you love us so (Repeat All)*

*Chorus II: You love us, oh how you love us
 Oh how you love us, oh how you love!*

We are your portion and you are our prize,
Drawn to redemption by the grace in your eyes,
If grace is an ocean, we're all sinking.
And heaven meets earth with the force of a kiss
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest
I don't have time to maintain these regrets
When I think about the way *(Chorus II)*

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.)

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:31-35, 44-53

Terrance Hayes

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The reign of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The reign of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet: 'I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.' 'The reign of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the reign of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 'Again, the reign of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And Jesus said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the reign of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

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

"The Beatitudes"

by A. H. Malotte

Jared Fischer, piano; Laura Valles, soprano

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

Epistle Lesson

Romans 8:28-39

Gregg Walker

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. For those whom God foreknew God also predestined to be conformed to the image of the Son, in order that Jesus might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom God predestined God also called; and those whom God called God also justified; and those whom God justified God also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? God who did not withhold God's own Son, but gave Jesus up for all of us, will God not with Jesus also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

"All and Nothing"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Gregg Walker

Offering Music

“Your Love Remains”

by J. Arndt and D. Gungor,

words and music adapted to Psalm 23 by Jared Fischer

Through the darkness, through the fire, through my fleeting heart's desire
Your love remains, Your love remains.

Though I wonder far away, squander all Your freedom gave,
Your love remains, Your love remains.

*O my, my soul, it cries,
Your swift hand, swiftly replies
To rescue me, you rescue me.*

In green pastured hills you lead, then by waters still, your keep;
Your rod and staff, they comfort me.

When my enemies surround, still your table there abounds,
My cup is filled, my cup is filled.

*Though I walk Death's dark valley,
There Your strong hands uphold me,
I fear no evil, You are with me.*

Surely goodness, surely mercy, surely kindness all my days
Will follow me, will follow me.

In Your house I'll ever dwell and everywhere and ever still
Your love remains, Your love remains.

*O my soul, Your praises cries,
O my soul, Your praise it cries,
My soul it cries, My soul it cries out.*

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

φ Praise God who gives all blessings birth;
Praise God all creatures on the earth;
Praise God, who makes, sustains, sets free;
One holy God in persons three. Amen.

* Offertory Dedication

Gregg Walker

* Hymn 181

“You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”

BRING FORTH

You are the salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!
Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God!
Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, bring forth the City of God!
Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the City of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God!
Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

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.

NO BUILDING ACCESS MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY

Parking lot repairs, surface sealing and striping will begin Monday, JULY 31 through Wednesday, AUGUST 2. There will be NO ACCESS to the church driveway, lot or building until Wednesday afternoon, weather permitting. Please plan accordingly or contact the church office with your needs. Thank you for your patience during our maintenance projects!

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.

- Drop off school supplies for local children in the collection bin in the Gathering Room during July.
- Support the Back Pack Ministry with food items which benefit young children at David Cox Elementary school. Look for the grocery cart in the Gathering Room.
- Contact local and State representatives about budget and need for non-partisan redistricting. Contact Federal Representative and Senators about healthcare and budget.



SOJOURNERS CLASS~NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING

The Sojourners will be discussing Linda Tirado's book, *Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America*. We start at 9:45 in the Conference Room, and everyone is welcome, no preparation necessary.

2Q2017 GIVING STATEMENTS

In effort to continue our green pathways, the second quarter statements reflecting your offerings have been distributed electronically. If you have questions, or would like to receive a paper copy, please contact Dawn Simmons in the church office at office@holycovenantucc.org. Many thanks to all for your continued support of our ministries!

GOT PRIDE?

Visors are available for \$15 in the gathering room and from Bob Saylor and Joe Kiser. Adult size, black only. Proceeds defer expenses for HCUCC's PRIDE participation. Plan to join us August 26-27 in support of our brothers and sisters at Charlotte PRIDE.

BOOK CLUB HAS GROWING PARTICIPATION!

Our membership is growing! Join us at 10:30 am at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Road, Charlotte. Upcoming discussions will include August 14 - *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and September 11 - *A Stillness at Appomattox* by Bruce Catton.

DEMENTIA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE, AUGUST 30

Whether you are a healthcare professional, caregiver, person living with Alzheimer's or related dementia, or a member of the general public, all are invited to our Annual Dementia Education Conference! Come learn more about the impact of Alzheimer's globally and locally for you and those you support and serve. Learn or refresh your care giving practices. Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3400 Beatties Ford Road. Discover new resources. Connect with others. More information at Alz.org/northcarolina

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

Elder for July:

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

Deacons for July: Renee Brown, Cheryl Milam

Recyclers: Linn Finger

Greeters: Marylou Iantosca, Shirley Moder

Ushers: Youth Sunday

Media: Brian Hankins, Debbie Davis, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Debbie Davis, Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Donna Collins, Linn Finger, JP Griffin, Nishi Griffin

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Bill Funderburk, Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), 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, Virginia Tomlinson (Tommy Tomlinson & Alix Felsing), Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb)

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.

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

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

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

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