



## Silent Meditation

Believing has very little transformative power. You can believe and still be angry, mad, and so forth.... To “belove” is to commit yourself to, pledge yourself to. We are changed by what we “belove.”

~Marcus Borg

**“There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide you will ever have. And if you cannot hear it, you will all of your life spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls.”**

~Howard Thurman

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

August 13, 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

Annika Decker

**One:** All are welcomed here in the name of Jesus Christ,

**Many:** **to worship the God who cherishes us, and to experience the  
Spirit who nurtures us.**

**One:** God is always close to us; It is written:

**Many:** **“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.”**

**One:** God welcomes all; It is written:

**Many:** **“Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be  
saved.”**

**One:** As a community of faith we call upon the Living God and  
proclaim:

**ALL:** **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.**

**One:** With these words from the UCC Statement of Faith we declare  
our common hope as together we worship the Living God!

\* 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*

1. My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' love and righteousness.  
I dare not trust this earthly frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When shows veils my Savior's face,  
I rest upon unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil.  
*(Refrain)*

3. Christ's oath and covenant and blood  
support me in the rising flood.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
Christ then is all my hope and stay.  
*(Refrain)*

4. When Christ shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Love be found,  
Dressed in God's righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne.  
*(Refrain)*

**“In Feast or Fallow”**

**When the fields are dry, and the winter is long  
Blessed are the meek, the hungry, the poor.  
When my soul is downcast, and my voice has no song  
For mercy, for comfort, I wait on the Lord.**

***Chorus:* In the harvest feast or the fallow ground  
My certain hope is in Jesus found.  
My lot, my cup, my portion sure  
Whatever comes, we shall endure;  
Whatever comes, we shall endure.**

**On a cross of wood, His blood was outpoured  
Christ rose from the ground, like a bird to the sky  
Bringing peace to our violence, and crushing death’s door  
Our Maker incarnate, our God who provides. *(Chorus)***

**When the earth beneath me crumbles and quakes  
Not a sparrow falls, nor a hair from my head  
Without Christ’s hand to guide me, my shield and my strength  
In joy or in sorrow, in life or in death. *(Chorus)***

**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 14:13-21**

**Jeff Hughes**

**Now when Jesus heard (of the death of John the Baptizer), he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Jesus and said, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.’ Jesus said to them, ‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’**

The disciples replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then Jesus ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

"You Tell Me So"

by J.J. Heller

*Lisa Cloninger, Kathleen Smith, vocals;*

*Brian Hankins, bass; David McGuirt, guitar; David Smith, banjo*

*How high, how deep is your love for me  
And you will never let me go  
Light or darkness, doesn't matter  
Because you will never let me go*

*Refrain: And I will never cry alone  
And You will always be my home  
And You tell me so*

*You love everyone that I love  
More than I ever could  
Though my days are filled with trouble  
Lord I know you're good (Refrain)*

*Little ones to you belong  
When I am weak, you are strong... (Refrain)*

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that ‘the person who does these things will live by them.’ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, ... ‘The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’ But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our message?’ So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

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

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

United Church of Canada Creed:

**ALL:** We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

1. We live by faith and not by sight;  
No gracious words we hear,  
From Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
Who still we know is near.
2. We may not touch Christ's hand and side,  
Nor follow where Christ trod;  
But in confessing we rejoice:  
Our Savior and our God!
3. Help then, O Christ, our unbelief:  
And may our faith a bound  
To call on you when you are near  
And seek where you are found:
4. That, when our life of faith is done,  
In realms of clearer light  
We may behold you as you are,  
With full and endless sight.

\* Offering Response

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

φ Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\* Offertory Dedication

Alix Felsing

1. How firm a foundation for you has been laid,  
By God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!  
What more can God say than to you has been said,  
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
For I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand  
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.”
3. “When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
The rivers of woe shall not over you flow;  
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
Delivering you from your deepest distress.”
4. “When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
My grace all sufficient shall be your supply;  
The flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed  
Your soul to make pure just as gold is refined.”
5. “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”

\* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

Jared Fischer

*No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

## 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.

### BROWN TO GREEN: WE NEED YOUR HELP! AUGUST 19

We are replacing the grass on the south side of the church grounds with zoysia sod. Zoysia requires less water and mowing so we are being good ecological stewards. The Buildings and Grounds team has been hard at work preparing the soil and now we need your help with the fun part. On Saturday, August 19, we will lay the sod. People of all physical abilities are welcome! We need strong backs to lay the rolls and also need people to trim and water the sod as it is put down. We will start at 8AM to beat the heat and stop when the sod is down. Please let JoAnn Jellison at [joannjellison@yahoo.com](mailto:joannjellison@yahoo.com) know if you can help so we can plan accordingly. Many hands will make short work of this task!

### BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATION, SEPTEMBER 10

**Students & Teachers:** Bring your backpack, your giant totes, whatever you use to haul your school supplies and we will do a "Blessing of the Backpacks" in worship. Following worship, we will celebrate with a pizza party for all. Members - bring a dessert to share if you are able. All are welcome for lunch!

### 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 AM in the Conference Room, and everyone is welcome, no preparation necessary.

### GET YOUR OM ON! WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30 PM

Join David Smith and others for a relaxing yoga session in the Gathering Room. No experience necessary. Facebook: HCUCC Yoga4all

## **Got PRIDE? AUGUST 20 WORSHIP SERVICE AT 4 PM**

Charlotte Pride's Annual Interfaith Service is August 20th at 4 PM. Temple Beth El, 5101 Providence Road, Charlotte. There will be a reception following the Service.

## **PRIDE PARADE SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1 PM**

## **PRIDE BOOTH DOWNTOWN SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 26 & 27**

Can you help with the HCUCC booth? Signup sheets are now available in the Gathering Room. 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.

## **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.
- Plan to join us at **Charlotte PRIDE**, August 26th and 27th.

## **ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE**

Did you know that Duke Energy, Dominion Resources, and Southern Company are pushing to put a 600-mile pipeline carrying fracked gas through West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina? The Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) puts our climate, land, water and the safety of communities living near it at risk. Here's the good news. If the utility companies get their way, the pipeline would harm more than 450 acres of wetlands and put hundreds of streams at risk of contamination. Even more unsettling, the communities in the path of the planned pipeline would be most impacted and those are predominantly minority and low-income families. **You've got an opportunity to stop this unnecessary pipeline from happening** by telling the NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) that you're opposed to it. Send your message today: <http://action.ncconservationnetwork.org/opposeACP>

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

Elder for August:

Jeff Edwards-Knight, jeff763@aol.com or 704-651-4838

Deacons for August: Micheal Hall, Karen Long

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

Greeters: Donna Collins, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Kevin Edwards Knight, Tom Magraw

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis, Olivia Carney

Tabulators: Kathleen Smith, Sally McLester

Refreshments: Bill Tyler, Kim Tyler

**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), Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Bill Funderburk, Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Barbara Lees (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), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp)

*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**

**Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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