



Silent Meditation

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed-
Let it be that great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above.

(It never was America to me.)

O, let my land be a land where Liberty
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
But opportunity is real, and life is free,
Equality is in the air we breathe.

(There's never been equality for me,
Nor freedom in this "homeland of the free.")

O, let America be America again-
The land that never has been yet-
And yet must be-the land where every man is free.
The land that's mine-the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, ME-
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again.

~ Langston Hughes

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

August 20, 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

"What Does the Lord Require?"
Judah L. Jones

by Judah L. Jones

What does the Lord require?

Seek justice, love kindness / Walk humbly with your God.

* Call to Worship

Dickie Lamm

One: Though we come from different circumstances,

Many: **The Living God, with whom we walk, makes us one in
worship.**

One: Though we have traveled different paths of struggles and
successes,

Many: **The Living God makes us one in healing.**

One: Though each of us has strife as well as joy,

Many: **The Living God makes us one in hope.**

One: Blessed be the Living God, the Way of Life, Healing and Hope.
Welcome to Holy Covenant United Church of Christ as
collectively we pray:

ALL: You, O God, have drawn us together this day from a variety of
backgrounds, experiences, hopes, and dreams. Be with us as
we seek justice and live with loving kindness. Open our
hearts and our spirits to receive strength, encouragement and
peace. Come, inspire us, dwell with us and make us one in
your Spirit, Amen.

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

* Passing of the Peace

Dickie Lamm

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.

* Hymns 436

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

CWM RHONDA

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;

Crown your ancient church's story;

Bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us, and assail the Savior's ways,

From the fears that long have bound us-

Free our heart for faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control.

Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

Make our broken spirits whole, Make our broken spirits whole.

Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be

Armored with all Christ-like graces, in the fight to set us free.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

In the quest for liberty, In the quest for liberty.

Save us from weak resignation, to the evils we deplore;

Let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

Serving you whom we adore, Serving you whom we adore.

“We Are One in the Spirit”

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord
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
We will work with each other; we will work side by side
'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.)

Hebrew Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 56:1-8

Hannah Magraw

Thus says the Living God: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. Happy is the mortal who does this, the one who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it, and refrains from doing any evil. Do not let the foreigner joined to the Eternal One say, 'God will surely separate me from God's people'; and do not let the eunuch say, 'I am just a dry tree.' For thus says the Living God: To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. And the foreigners who join themselves to the Living God, to minister to God, to love the name of the Living God, and to be God's servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Almighty God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

"Song of Life"
Judah L. Jones

by Chick Ball

Sharing My Story

Shakti Subramanian

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

Unison Prayer (*adapted from a UCC prayer by Alydia Smith*)

God of peace, give us the courage, strength and perseverance needed to challenge the systems of racism, so that we can clear a path for your justice, peace, and equity. We know racism is alive in our language and in our structures, and through our systems it actively works to deconstruct your glorious design, blocking the path to justice, equity, and the peace that Jesus brings.

May we work to find ways to combat racism in all its guises. We cry for abundant life for all, knowing that as a nation we are slowly being suffocated by the pervasive evil of racism where some of us are choking; some of us cannot breathe; some of us have died. We cry for peace, knowing that we are the instruments of God's peace and that such peace cannot exist without justice, equity, compassion, and courage.

We cry for Emmanuel, God with us, knowing that to God, every life matters equally and God is with all people even though as a community and as a society we have stated through our actions that some lives matter more than others.

Compassionate One, help us understand how racism finds life in our hearts and in our actions. In this time of tense anticipation, may we commit ourselves to be people of your way, crying and creating a path for justice, equity, and peace for all people in this wilderness of life. Amen.

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 15:21-28

Lloyd Spencer

Jesus left (Gennesaret) and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 "Outcasts Gathered" Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation Lloyd Spencer

Offering Hymn "Instrument" by Matt Maher

**Where there is hatred Lord, let me sow your love,
Where there's injury, let forgiveness be enough.
Are we giving up, fighting the good fight?
Where there is despair, just a flicker in the flame
Could break the veil of night.**

*Refrain: Creator God and Son,
O, Holy Spirit, three in One,
I offer you myself, though I'm broken and spent
Let me be Your instrument.*

**May I never seek, to be consoled as to console,
May I understand, to be loved is to love, to be loved is to love.
(Refrain)**

**Let there be peace, pardoned in the pardoning,
Born again when we die, You have raised us to new life.**

* 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 Lloyd Spencer

1. O holy city, seen of John,
where Christ, the Lamb, does reign,
with-in whose four-square walls shall come
no night, nor need, nor pain,
And where the tears are wiped from eyes
that shall not weep a-gain.

2. O shame to us who rest con-tent
while lust and greed for gain
in street and shop and ten-e-ment
wring gold from hu-man pain,
And bit-ter lips in deep de-spair
cry, "Christ has died in vain!"

3. Give us, O God, the strength to build
the cit-y that has stayed
too long a dream, whose laws are love,
whose ways are your own ways,
And where the sun that blaz-es is
your grace for all our days.

4. Al-read-y in the mind of God
that cit-y is pre-pared:
oh, how its spleen-dor chal-leng-es
the souls that great-ly dare,
Yes, bids us seize the whole of life
and build its glo-ry there.

* 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.

SING AN EASY ANTHEM WITH THE CHANCEL CHOIR, AUGUST 27

The Chancel Choir will prepare an easy anthem to sing on August 27. There are **two rehearsals**: the first will be directly **after worship on Sunday, August 20**, the second and final rehearsal will be at **9:00 AM on the morning of August 27**. If you love to sing, come join us! Contact Jared Fischer, music@holycovenantucc.org

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.

PIZZA FOR ALL FOLLOWING WORSHIP! SEPTEMBER 10

Following worship, we will celebrate with a pizza party for all. Bring a dessert to share if you are able. All are welcome for lunch!

PARENTS OF YOUTH & CHILDREN we would like to meet with you in the Conference Room and make plans together for ongoing Christian education. We welcome your thoughts and ideas!

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY, SEPTEMBER 16, SAVE THE DATE!

SOJOURNERS CLASS~NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING

In our next book study we will read and discuss *Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy* by John Shelby Spong. All are welcome to join us at 9:45, 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

Charlotte Pride's Annual Interfaith Service August 20th at 4:00 p.m. Temple Beth El, 5101 Providence Road, Charlotte There will be a reception following the Service.

PRIDE PARADE SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1PM

PRIDE BOOTH DOWNTOWN SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 26 & 27

Can you help with the HCUCC booth? Sign up sheet 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.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO THE BOOK CLUB!

Join us at 10:30 am at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Road, Charlotte. Our books for the next months are:

- September 11 - *A Stillness at Appomattox* by Bruce Catton
- October 9 - *The Leavers* by Lisa Ko
- November 13 - *A Full Life* by Jimmy Carter

DVD ALAILABLE FROM EARTH CARE TEAM

National Geographic debuted a documentary *From the Ashes* in late June, 2017. The central question; what is the true cost of coal in today's economy and environment? *From the Ashes* attempts to present both sides of the often-contentious debate between jobs and the environment. The Earth Care Ministry at Holy Covenant UCC previewed the film before it premiered and the DVD is now available for in-home viewing. Anyone interested in viewing this very timely and informative social commentary, contact Diane Rogers, diane@cpmcraftsman.com or 207-615-4075.

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.
- 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.

FAITHFUL JOURNEY: LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Mecklenburg Ministries (MeckMin.org) is happy to announce a new monthly series called *Faithful Journey*. Each month a different House of Worship will host an informational gathering where members of the community can come together to learn about its norms and practices. Participants will have an opportunity to get acquainted with the concepts, vocabulary, and rituals of a rich diversity of faith traditions in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. First in the series: September 17, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. RSVP by September 10, arzu@meckmin.org

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: Lynn Chavarria

Greeters: Marylou Iantosca, Suzanne Lamorey

Ushers: Kevin Edwards Knight, Tom Magraw

Media: Brian Hankins, Debbie Davis, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Lori Cipot, Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Bill Hildebrand, Connie Hildebrand

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Donna Collins, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, 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)

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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