



## Silent Meditation

**You can be content with all creatures under God. But you should never be content with what you have of God, for you can never have enough of God. The more you have of God, the more you want. If you, in fact, could have enough of God, so that there came about a satiety of God in you, then God would not be God.**

~Meister Eckhart

**God does not wait for us to become perfect and in possession of only high, pure thoughts and unmixed motives before [moving] through us. God waits only for the sign of faith.**

- Eugenia Price

**Humility consists in being precisely the person you actually are before God.**

~Thomas Merton

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

September 3, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Cheri Dennis

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 (from Psalm 138)

Meg Houlihan

One: Give thanks to God with our whole heart;

**Many: Give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.**

One: May all the leaders of the world praise God's name;

**Many: May all of us listen for the word of God.**

One: Sing of the ways of our God;

**Many: For great is the glory of God.**

One: Come, worship God, and praise God's name;

**Many: For God's steadfast love endures forever.**

\* Passing of the Peace

Meg Houlihan

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. Born of God, E-ter-nal Sav-ior, source of life, of truth and grace,  
Hu-man One, whose birth in-car-nate hal-lows all our hu-man race,  
Come a-gain, in all your glo-ry; come to us, in-spire and lead;  
Fill us with your lov-ing-kind-ness, heal our wrongs, and help our need.
  
2. Christ, as you have lived for oth-ers, so may we for oth-ers live;  
Free-ly have your gifts been grant-ed, free-ly may your ser-vants  
All the wealth that we may gath-er is for use in caus-es just.  
We are stew-ards of the boun-ty loaned to us in sol-emn trust.
  
3. Come, O Christ, and reign a-mong us, grant-ing love and joy and peace;  
Hush the storm of strife and pas-sion, bid its cru-el dis-cords cease.  
By your pa-tient years of toil-ing, by your si-lent hours of pain,  
Quench our fe-vered thirst for plea-sure, shame our self-ish treed for gain
  
4. See the Christ-like host ad-vanc-ing, high and low-ly, great and small,  
Linked in bonds of com-mon ser-vice, an-swer-ing the Sav-ior's call.  
Je-sus Christ, we hear your plead-ing that your peo-ple should be one.  
Grant, O grant our hope's fru-i-tion: here on earth, your will be done.

**“Rising Sun”**

*written by P. Mabury, D. Leonard, K. Lee, & L. Jordan*

**Lift your hearts, ye broken  
Sing oh sing, ye weary  
Your love has made us children of God  
We lift high Your glory  
Shown throughout our stories  
We praise You as Your children, oh God**

***Chorus: Our Great Redeemer, Glorious Savior  
Your love is brighter than the rising sun  
Light of the morning, You shine forever  
Your love is brighter than the rising sun  
Your love is brighter than the rising sun***

**Praise God’s love forever / Speak it loud and clear now  
Your love has made us children of God *(Chorus, Interlude)***

**Hallelujah God above all  
Simply to love is the greatest praise  
Hallelujah now and always  
Forever we lift your name in praise  
Hallelujah love will reign  
Simply to love is the greatest praise *(Chorus)***

**Children’s Message & Offering**

**Lloyd Spencer**

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

Oh the vapor of it all, it's a chasing of the wind  
The substance of the form, so pale and thin  
Let the veil of earth be stretched again

Holy / All behold the holy  
Trees clap their hands for you / Oceans, they dance for you

Heaven breathes through humankind  
We can feel the intertwine  
The beauty of it all  
The mystery / The swelling of a voice / A rising sea

Holy / All behold the holy  
Trees clap their hands for you / Oceans, they dance for you  
You are holy / Infinite and holy

A billion suns rise for you / Clouds paint the skies for you  
Mountains stand tall for you / Valleys bow down to you  
Everything rising to / Sing all our songs to you (*Interlude*)

Holy / The impossible and holy  
Kings become fools for you / Kingdoms to ruins for you  
Vapor finds ground in you / Music finds sound in you  
Everything rising (x5) (*Interlude*)

Come like dawn / Like grace / Like sunlight  
Bring this world to life  
Come like rain / Like breath / Like springtime  
Bring this world to life

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LIVING GOD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the HOLY ONE saw that Moses had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then God said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' The Holy One said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LIVING GOD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' God said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' God said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I AM" has sent me to you.' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The HOLY ONE, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you": This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.

**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 "Who Am I?" Lloyd Spencer

Offertory Invitation Cheri Dennis

Offering Music Concerto for 2 Horns: Movement II Antonio Vivaldi  
*Jared Fischer, piano; Bill Tyler, horn*

\* Offering Response 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 Cheri Dennis

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer for Communion Lloyd Spencer

\* One: Let us give words to our feelings.

All: Spirit of the universe, our souls are in need of nourishment.  
Our inadequacies drain our spirit. Our frustrations drain our  
spirit. The hurts and the pains of our world drain our spirit.  
We need to be fed. With our spirits and our hearts wide open  
we move to the table. Nourish us for our sake and for the sake  
of all we touch. Amen.

Words of Institution Lloyd Spencer

Prayer of Consecration

*(Please come forward as directed by the ushers.)*

*Communion is received by intinction. Please take bread or a gluten free  
wafer and dip it into the cup to receive both elements.  
The Communion elements are bread and grape juice.)*

## Hymn of Consecration “Take My Life and Let It Be”

Take my life and let it be / consecrated Lord to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days / let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands and let them move / at the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be / swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing / to you alone my offering.  
Take my lips and let them be / filled with messages from Thee.  
Take my silver and my gold / not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use / every power as You choose.

*Refrain:* Here am I, all of me. Take my life, it's all for Thee.

Take my will and make it Thine / it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own / it shall be Thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my God, I pour / at Your feet it's treasure store.  
Take myself and I will be / ever, only, all for Thee. *Refrain*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

We have been fed. Each of our spirits have been united by the bread and the cup. Let us feel the energy of wholeness no matter who we are or what our situation in life might be. We are nourished and we are grateful. Amen

\* Hymn 495

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ’s service,  
Called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
Side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,  
Christ’s clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering,  
Reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer poorer,  
All God’s people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together  
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission,  
In a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other’s burdens,  
Breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,  
Words of challenge, said with care.  
Bring new power and strength for action,  
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person’s sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
Our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace.

\* Benediction

Lloyd Spencer

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 THE REV. J. LLOYD SPENCER

Lloyd Spencer is originally from the Appalachian coal fields of West Virginia. He attended West Virginia Wesleyan College where he met his wife, Gussie. They married just a few days before graduation at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 1974. After graduation they moved to North Carolina, serving in Currituck, NC. In 1989, he moved his ordination to the United Church of Christ and served churches in Louisville, KY, Lexington, NC, and Whitsett, NC near Greensboro. Lloyd and Gussie are enjoying retirement as the parents of two grown adults and the proud grandparents of two fantastic grandkids. We are delighted to have them among us!

## **BACK TO SCHOOL & PIZZA 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. 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!

## **EARTH CARE MINISTRY MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10**

All are welcome. Join us at 10 AM in the Sojourners classroom.

## **ORDINATION OF R. TERRY PARRISH JR., SEPTEMBER 10, 3 PM**

All are invited in witness of this joyous event at Holy Covenant UCC. Reception following.

## **SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, ALL CHURCH WORK DAY**

### **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.

- Volunteer at your local school: CMS- [www.cms.k12.nc.us](http://www.cms.k12.nc.us) or Cabarrus- [www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us](http://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us)
- Support Holy Covenant's benevolence fund, which helps members in need of assistance during times of crisis. Notate your check "Sunshine Fund".
- Volunteer at the Upper Room Ministry at Urban Ministry Center. Contact **Phil Kaveler**, coordinator for ways you can help.

## **SOJOURNERS CLASS~NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING**

Join us in a lively discussion of *Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy* by John Shelby Spong. All are welcome and no preparation is necessary.

**PRAY ~ SING ~ GIVE ~ ACT**

**UCC's Disaster Ministries** is helping to make a positive response to the victims of Hurricane Harvey. Financial donations to support Harvey relief and recovery efforts can be made via secure online donation at [http://www.ucc.org/donate\\_to\\_disaster\\_relief](http://www.ucc.org/donate_to_disaster_relief). Gifts may also be made to Holy Covenant UCC marked for "Hurricane Harvey" **100% of funds to the United Church of Christ designated for U.S. disaster relief are used for disaster relief and rehabilitation programming within the United States.** The UCC also needs volunteer groups and long-term volunteers for the denomination's responses to disasters. For current opportunities visit the disaster volunteer webpage to stay connected to opportunities to serve.

**FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF CHARLES "CHUCK" ANDREW JOHNSON**

Our floral arrangement today is provided by Karen Long in memory of her late husband, Chuck Johnson (September 2, 1953~September 4, 2016).

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

Elder for September: Jeff Hughes, [jeffhugh@msn.com](mailto:jeffhugh@msn.com) or 704-577-3068

Deacons for September: Lynn Chavarria, Joe Behr-Stenzel

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

Greeters: Bill Hildebrand, Connie Hildebrand

Ushers: Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Moses Taylor

Media: Brian Hankins, Suzanne Lamorey, Renee Brown

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Phil Kaveler

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

### **Members**

Joe & Julie McLelland and family, in the death of Julie's father, Urban Linn. Visitation at Holy Covenant on Tuesday, Sept, 5 at 1pm, Celebration of Life service at 2pm. Funeral Service followed by Internment at Northlake Memorial Gardens in Huntersville. All are welcome to attend.

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

### **Friends & Family Members**

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), Bill Funderburk, Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Nancy Knapp (Suzanne Hopkins), 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), Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), Virginia Tomlinson (Tommy Tomlinson & Alix Felsing), Cindy Wagner (Donna Collins), Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb), Elizabeth Wilson (Donna Collins)

**Holy Covenant United Church of Christ**

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

**Ms. Cheri Dennis, Ministry Intern**

**Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music**

**Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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