



Silent Meditation

Love the Living God, all God's saints,
Be strong and let your hearts take courage,
all you who wait for the Living One.

~ Psalm 31:23-24

*We do not do [life] alone of course.
We are companioned through life. . . .
Underneath it all, holding us up as we change,
are the people who love us.
However much we find ourselves in the throes of life,
they stand by until we land again on solid ground,
find ourselves again, get up in the morning ready to start over.
Because of them we stay on the path.
They provide the unchanging foundations of love
that enable us to risk change.
The people who love us prod us—enable us—to grow.
And God loves us. . . . God loves me and wants me to grow.
I am trying, before I die, to learn to trust this continual
going into the unknown. I better live a long, long life.*

~ Joan Chittister

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 5, 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

Nate Ward

One: Our Mighty Fortress, today we remember the unseen cloud of witnesses who surround us:

Many: Those who in every age and generation witnessed to their faith in life and in death; those who by their courage and their sacrifice have served and honoured you.

One: Help us walk worthily of those in whose unseen presence life is lived.

Many: In our communion with you, we have communion with generations past and generations yet unborn.

One: As we celebrate the lives of your saints both glorious and ordinary, may we profit by their example as they faithfully loved and served all.

Many: Keep us, O God, forever in your arms. May the saints surrounding us stay forever in our care. Because of their living, teach us to live faithfully as well.

* Passing of the Peace

Nate Ward

One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of God's peace, for the peace of God is here to stay.

Many: Thanks be to God.

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

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
‘mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,
Live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And share with them a glorious crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
Then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Children’s Offering & Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Gift of Music “The Gathering of Spirits” Carrie Newcomer
Lisa Cloninger, Judah Jones, Kathleen Smith, vocals,
David McGuirt, guitar

Refrain: Let it go my love my truest, / Let it sail on silver wings
Life's a twinkling that's for certain, / But it's such a fine thing
There's a gathering of spirits / There's a festival of friends
And we'll take up where we left off / When we all meet again.

I can't explain it. / I couldn't if I tried
How the only things we carry / Are the things we hold inside
Like a day in the open, / Like the love we won't forget
Like the laughter that we started / And it hasn't died down yet. (*Refrain*)

Oh yeah, now didn't we / And don't we make it shine
Aren't we standing in the center of / Something rare and fine
Some glow like embers / Like a light through colored glass
Some give it all in one great flame / Throwing kisses as they pass

Just east of Eden / But there's heaven in our midst
And we're never really all that far / From those we love and miss
Wade out in the water / There's a glory all around
And the wisest say there's a 1000 ways / To kneel and kiss the ground

Epistle Lesson

1 John 3:1-3, 16-24

Barbara Thomas

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Christ. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when Christ is revealed, we will be like Christ, for we will see Christ fully. And all who have this hope purify themselves, just as Christ is pure.

We know love by this, that Jesus laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before God whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and God knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive whatever we ask, because we obey God's commandments and do what pleases God.

And this is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name of Jesus Christ and love one another, just as Jesus has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

One: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Abiding Love”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Barbara Thomas

Offering Music

Jared Fischer

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

φ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Spirit, creatures here below.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts;
Praise God, the Source of all our gifts! Amen.**

* Offertory Dedication

Barbara Thomas

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

One: We gather at this table, God's table;

Many: **The table has been set long before we were born.**

One: There are places for all who have gone before us,

Many: **We take their hands as we approach to be received.**

One: You are welcome at this table, Christ's table.

ALL: **The faithful ones are gathered with us from all generations. We lift up the memories of loved ones we no longer see, we open our hearts to the presence of loved ones who are with God, for God is present with us. This is the table of reconciliation, of forgiveness, of restoration. This is the table for all the saints of God.**

One: We lift our hearts in gratitude and unity as together we pray,

ALL: **Our God, in whom is heaven, blessed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE

As the song is sung, ushers will direct you to come forward to receive communion and light a candle to remember the saints in your life.

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, wafers and grape juice.

Music during Communion "In the Sweet By and By"

There's a land that is fairer than day
And by faith we can see it afar
For our maker waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

Refrain: In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore
In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed
And our spirits shall sorrow no more
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest (*Refrain*)

To our bountiful maker above
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of Christ's love
And the blessings that hallow our days
And the blessings that hallow our days (*Refrain*)

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks"

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand / And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land / Where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains / Shines one eternal day.
There, God the Son forever reigns / And scatters night away.

Refrain: I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promise Land. (2x)

No chilling winds, no poisonous breath / Can reach that healthful shore
Where sickness, sorrow, pain and death / Are felt and feared, no more.

When I shall see that happy place / I'll be forever blessed,
All those I lost at last embrace / And in God's bosom rest.

“Ain’t No Grave”

O, my Lord, it's a winding road / And my heart aches from a heavy load.
I feel the weight beneath the ground.
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

O, my Lord, I can barely sing / Waiting on You and Your reckoning.
I feel the weight beneath the ground.
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

Chorus: I will rise! I will rise! (2x)

*Trouble comes for everyone / Death has no respect for love.
Roll that stone I won't be found;
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.*

Lord, I'm crooked from head to toe
And whether death takes me fast or slow
You'll raise me then and you you'll raise me now.
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down. *Chorus*

Oh my Lord, I can barely see / Through the fog pressing in on me.
Angels humming, can you hear the sound?
Ain't no grave gonna HOLD ME DOWN! *Chorus*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*in unison*)

In deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, and these people, we give ourselves to you. Lead us forward to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, and encourage many through us. And thus Living God, may we live as your saints in this world. Amen.

* Hymn 382

“Come, We Who Love God’s Name”
(stanzas 1, 3, 4 & 5)

MARCHING TO ZION

Come, we who love God's name, and let our joys be known;
To-gether God's great love pro-claim, (2x)
and thus sur-round the throne. (2x)

Refrain:

We're march-ing to Zi-on,
beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful Zi-on;
We're march-ing on-ward to Zi-on,
the beau-ti-ful cit-y of God.

God's grace on earth is found, the seeds of glo-ry sown;
Ce-les-tial fruits on earth-ly ground, (2x)
from faith and hope have grown. (2x) *Refrain:*

The hill of Zi-on yields a thou-sand sa-cred sweets
Be-fore we reach the heaven-ly fields, (2x)
or walk the gold-en streets. (2x) *Refrain:*

Then let our songs a-bound, and ev-ery tear be dry;
We're trav-el-ing through Em-man-uel's ground, (2x)
to great-er world on high. (2x) *Refrain:*

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

“I’ll Fly Away”

Some glad morning, when this life is o’er - I’ll fly away
To a home on God’s celestial shore - I’ll fly away

*Chorus: I’ll fly away oh glory, I’ll fly away (in the morning)
When I die hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away*

When the shadows of this life have gone - I’ll fly away
Like a bird from its prison bars has flown - I’ll fly away *Chorus*

Oh how glad and happy when we meet - I’ll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on my feet - I’ll fly away *Chorus*

Just a few more weary days and then - I’ll fly away
To a land where joys will never end - I’ll fly away *Chorus*

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 BARBARA THOMAS

We are delighted to welcome Barbara to Holy Covenant as our **Interim Minister for Church and Family Life**. The personnel team has been meeting since the departure of our Minister for Youth and Young Adults and re-assessing our needs and has now created this position. Barbara is a mission-driven leader with a passion for serving the underserved who most recently worked with both the Urban Ministry Center and Church World Services (which organizes our wonderful Crop Walk). She is ordained UCC clergy and a member of New Emmanuel UCC here in Charlotte.

JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY - YOU ARE AMAZING!

Thank you for your generosity! We are presently at 97% of goal for our General Fund and 106% of goal for our Building Fund!

ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 19

Our 2017 Annual Meeting is our opportunity to discuss and share the work of the church with the entire congregation. In order to conduct the business of the church we need a quorum - and that means we need our members present! If you have any questions about the annual meeting, please contact Consistory President **Jeff Hughes**. **POTLUCK FOLLOWING ANNUAL MEETING** Bring your favorite recipe from our Cookbook! Cookbooks will be available to purchase Nov. 19. Proceeds to benefit Guatemala Missions.

HCUCC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR, DECEMBER 2 & 3

Calling all Artists/Crafters/Bakers! Be a part of the Bazaar! **Saturday, December 2, 4-7 PM--**Wine and cheese preview/sale party **AND Sunday, December 3, following worship--**Twenty percent of sales will benefit the Guatemala Missions Fund. Please contact Kim Tyler (yhr762@yahoo.com) or Kay Smith (HappyArtByKay@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in this fun event!

DECK THE HALLS & DECORATING, DECEMBER 2, 4-7 PM

Join us in shopping at the bazaar and then decorating the sanctuary for the first Sunday in Advent. Children's Christmas art for take home and activities will be available from 4-6pm. Make this a part of your holiday planning!

2018 WINTER YOUTH RETREAT AT Blowing Rock CC, January 12-15, 2018 uccwinteryouthretreat.org/ Contact Cheri Dennis to sign up!

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.

- November 13-17, HCUCC members join UMC in an Upper Room Ministry, bible reading and prayer time. Contact **Phil Kaveler** if you would like to be a part of this outreach to others.
- Support the HCUCC Benevolence fund that assist members in times of need. Notate your offering "Sunshine Fund"
- Contact your local Senators and Representatives about Tax Reform.
<https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

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

Elder for November: jeff763@aol.com or 704-651-4838

Deacons for November: James Hong, Cheryl Milam

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

Greeters: Sue Pascucci, Barbara Schneller

Ushers: Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barry Holcomb, Barbara Schneller

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Renee Brown

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Southside and Bold & Beautiful Covenant Groups

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Joy Decker and family in the death of her uncle, Gary Gordon
Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Isabelle Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed & Beth Sharp, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Allen Abee (Gail Bumgardner), Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Becky Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp)

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

Rev. Barbara Thomas, Interim Minister for Church & Family Life

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510

www.holycovenantucc.org office@holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810