



Silent Meditation

In the dance of relationship, when we change, God also changes. God is not bound by God's past eternal or temporal decisions. God is free to act creatively in relationship to our creativity.

~Bruce G. Epperly

All of us live by some vision. It may be a depressing vision. It may be a very limited vision. It may be a vision that it's all going to pieces... If it's a dark vision, one that's moving toward disintegration and chaos, then we will be fearful. If ... it's a vision of God's Realm and we really believe that it's going to come into being, we'll be filled with hope. Hope is the confidence that the vision which is the biblical vision will really occur. And no one is going to be excluded.

~N. Gordon Cosby

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1916 ~ 2018 FOUNDER'S SUNDAY
SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

January 21, 2018

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 information pads so that all worshippers
might have the opportunity to sign them.)*

*Passing of the Peace

Nancy Ellett Allison

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Robert Shepherd

One: We are here to give thanks for the vision of our ancestors in faith.

Many: **We praise you, O God, for the transforming faith of mothers
and fathers who responded to your call, joining hearts and
hands in service.**

One: We are here to celebrate the gift of diverse ministries that give
life to community.

Many: **We praise you, O God, for the transforming service of elders,
deacons, teachers, encouragers, counsellors, artists,
committee chairs, cooks and kitchen cleaners.**

One: We are here to worship you faithfully and vibrantly.

Many: **We praise you, O God for transforming pastors and prophets
who lift up your Word, for choirs, musicians and bands who sing
your praise, and for faithful worshipers who seek your
strength.**

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

One: We are here to honor the baptisms we've celebrated, professions of faith we have heard, and answers to prayer that we have experienced.

Many: **We praise you, O God for the transforming lives of faithful people bound in covenant across cultures, continents, and confessions.**

One: We are here to commend the generosity that has enabled us to reach far beyond this community with the word and witness of the Gospel.

Many: **We praise you, O God for the courage to offer a transforming witness and extravagant welcome to all.**

One: We are here to ask a blessing on the future as we move in confidence into a new day.

Many: **We praise you, O God for a transforming church where all share the cost and joy of discipleship, where all receive the promise of courage in the struggle for justice and peace.**

One: In this singular moment we become ready, ready to take with us our stories from the past, and ready to look into the future, a future filled with promise for all.

Prayer of Invocation (*Unison*)

Robert Shepherd

God of the faithful in every time, today you have called us into your church to be one body in Jesus Christ. You have given us the gifts we need to serve others. Grant that we may willingly take our part, that we may support one another and that we may seek the greatest gift, which is love. Join us with all your people throughout the world, through your Spirit of unity. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Robert Shepherd

One fact remains that does not change: God has loved you, loves you now and will love you always. This is the good news that brings us new life.

* Hymn

“A New Hallelujah”

Can you hear, there's a new song
Breaking out from the children of freedom
Every race and every nation
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

Let us sing love to the nations
Bringing hope of the grace that has freed us
Make it known and make it famous
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

Chorus: Arise, let the church arise, Let Love reach to the other side
Alive, come alive, Let the song arise.

Everyone sings a new song
Reaching out with a new Hallelujah
Every son and every daughter
Everyone sing a new Hallelujah. (*Chorus*)

* Hymn 592 “God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command” NATIONAL HYMN
arr. Jared Fischer

1. God of the a-ges, who with sure com-mand
 brought forth in beau-ty all the star-ry band
 of shin-ing worlds in splen-dor through the skies,
 our grate-ful songs be-fore your throne a-rise.

2. Your pur-pose, just, en-vi-sions mor-tals free;
 God, set our path toward hu-man lib-er-ty.
 Still be our rul-er, guard-ian, guide, and stay—
 your Word our law, your paths our cho-sen way.

3. From war’s a-larms, from dead-ly pes-ti-lence,
 with stead-fast care be ev-er our de-fense;
 Your love and faith with-in our hearts in-crease;
 with boun-teous good-ness nour-ish us in peace.

4. Re-fresh your peo-ple on life’s toil-some way;
 lead us from night to nev-er-end-ing day;
 With truth and love guide us through er-ror’s maze,
 and we shall give you glo-ry, laud, and praise.

Children’s Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

* Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:14-20

Brian Hankins

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

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

Hebrew Scripture Lesson

Jonah 3:1-10

Barbara Thomas

The word of the Living God came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Living God. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent with a change of mind; God may turn from this fierce anger, so that we do not perish.' When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God's mind was changed about the calamity that God would bring upon them; and God did not do it.

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

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Sermon "The God who Repents" Nancy Ellett Allison
Offertory Invitation Barbara Thomas
Offertory Music "Future/Past" by J. M. McMillan

You hold the reins on the sun and the moon
Like horses driven by kings
You cover the mountains, the valleys below
With the breadth of your mighty wings

All treasures of wisdom and things to be known
Are hidden inside your hand
And in this fortunate turn of events
You ask me to be your friend (2x)

Chorus: And you, you are my first, you are my last,
You are my future and my past. (2x)

The constellations are swimming inside
The breadth of your desire
Where could I run, where could I hide
From your heart's jealous fire

All treasures of wisdom and things to be known
Are hidden inside your hand
And in this fortunate turn of events
You ask me to be your friend (2x) (*Chorus*)

You are the beginning and the end (*Instrumental to Chorus*)

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

φ Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above all heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Offertory Dedication

Barbara Thomas

* Hymn 573

“Lead On, Eternal Sovereign”
arr. Deborah Kauffmann Mishoe & Jared Fischer

LANCASHIRE

1. Lead on e-ter-nal Sov-ereign, we fol-low in your way;
loud rings your cry for jus-tice, your call for peace this day:
Through prayer-ful prep-a-ra-tion, your grace will make us strong,
to car-ry on the strug-gle to tri-umph o-ver wrong.

2. Lead on e-ter-nal Sov-ereign, we fol-low not with fear,
for in each hu-man con-flict your words of strength we hear:
That when we serve with glad-ness, you will not let us fall,
our trust is in your prom-ise that love will con-quer all.

3. Lead on e-ter-nal Sov-ereign, till sin’s fierce war shall cease,
and all your saints to-geth-er will sing a hymn of peace;
Then all in your do-min-ion will live with hearts set free,
to love and serve each oth-er for all e-ter-ni-ty.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response 581

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

φ Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust,
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.

Postlude

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.



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7:00 PM



Light Supper before worship 5:30 - 6:30 PM. The forty days before Easter begin with our Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary. It's a time that calls us to new life and challenges us to live our "best" life for forty days.

LENT 2018: ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Sunday, February 18 *Who Is Jesus?* Mark 1:9-15

Sunday, February 25 *What Matters Most?* Mark 12:28-34

LENTEN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

"Charlotte's Web" for all - Be a reading buddy with Hidden Valley Elementary third graders in February and March. Contact Dawn in the church office for volunteer forms, office@holycovenantucc.org

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Please sign up with your email address at the bottom if you are interested in attending one of these five week offerings.

WILDERNESS STORIES, SUNDAYS, 4 PM @ home of Sally Duffy

We each have our own wilderness stories; dry times in the desert, times of temptation, wandering and feeling lost, looking for God. We will explore wilderness stories in scripture and how those stories inform our wilderness experiences. Group facilitated by Barbara Thomas and Sally Duffy.

RE-IMAGINING PRAYER, TUESDAYS, 7 PM @ home of Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

What comes to mind when you hear the word “prayer”? Folded hands?

Special words? Bowed heads? Closed eyes? Prayer can be all of these and more. This will provide an opportunity to expand our understanding of prayer, experience a variety of ways to pray, and reflect on those experiences.

LEARNING FROM ST. FRANCIS, WEDNESDAY’S, 1 PM @ Holy Covenant

Facilitated by Nancy Allison and taught by Julie McElmurry, author of “Living & Serving in the Way of St. Francis,” we will focus on the teachings of St. Francis. Each participant will receive a copy of the book.

Register for a Lenten Growth Series

Name

Email

Class Choice

JOIN OUR NEW MEMBER - INQUIRER'S CLASSES THIS JANUARY

January 28, 9:30 AM History of UCC & Holy Covenant

February 4, 12:30 PM Organization & Opportunities for Involvement.

We will welcome new members on February 11. Please contact Debbie Davis, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com, if you are interested in joining the church and/or attending these classes.

YOGA AT HOLY COVENANT

We are considering the restart of yoga classes on Wednesday evenings. Please email davidsmith02b@gmail.com to indicate your interest. I'm not looking for a firm commitment but, rather attempting to gauge interest.

CONSISTORY RETREAT

Our Consistory will gather the weekend of January 26 & 27 to begin discussing ways to best serve Holy Covenant. Consistory members include: Jeff Edwards Knight, Cheryl Milam, Michael Baldonado, Faye Humphrey, Debbie Davis (Lynn Chavarria's term), Joe Behr-Stenzel, Sally Duffy, Kathleen Smith, Martha Bomely, and James Hong, Robert Shepherd, Suzanne Lamorey, Diane Rogers & Gregg Walker.

CONSISTORY ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

We will ordain our new elders and deacons of the Class of 2020 and install our officers during worship on January 28, 2018.

5 WEEKS TO A BETTER RELATIONSHIP

Sundays 9:45 - 10:45, **Jan. 14 to Feb. 11**. For couples and singles that want to improve their relationship. Prepare yourself for Valentine's Day in 2018! For more information, contact Kevin Decker, Certified Relationship Coach, Marriage Educator, and Speaker. 704-579-1693 or kevin@kevindecker.com

UPPER ROOM MINISTRY AT URBAN MINISTRY CENTER, FEBRUARY 5-9

Holy Covenant is scheduled to provide the Upper Room Ministry the week of February 5 - 9, and the week of April 2-6, from 12:00 -12:30 pm. This is a meaningful time of conversation, prayer or bible study with our neighbors. All interested, please contact Phil Kaveler by Jan. 26, pwkaveler@yahoo.com.

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

Elder for January:

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

Deacons for January: Debbie Davis, Joe Behr-Stenzel

Greeters: Aida Marcial, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: James Hong, Suzanne Lamorey, Susan Pascucci

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Hospitality

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Garrett Barlow in the death of his grandmother, Doris Storie
Susan Bennett Stiles, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Donna
Collins, Linn Finger, Eileen Howe, Helen Lambert, Sharon Landis, Irene
Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed Sharp,
Caroline Utz, Kathleen Wagner

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Marj Carmine (Donna Collins), Amy Ciccone
(Dawn Simmons), Bill Englebreth (Judah Jones), Bill Funderburk, Chuck
McAllister (Donna Collins), Beth Poyer Meyer, Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan),
Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Becky
Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Gary & Wanda Gilbert
West (John Rapp), Elizabeth Wilson (Donna Collins), Larry & LuAnn
Weidner and their granddaughter Anna (Dawn Simmons)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

Mrs. Cheri Dennis, Ministry Intern

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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