



Silent Meditation

Do not say “we are a nation of immigrants,” because it erases another, more accurate reality, which is: we are a nation whose prevailing origins stem from displacing the Indian nations already on this land.

It erases that we are a nation who...subsumed massive portions of Mexico, causing the shrinkage of vital resources for those already living, breathing, and thriving, on this land.

It erases urgent truths about the necessity of immigrating, for many – that it is not a matter of luxury, but a matter of survival and that survival is linked to the U.S.’s quest for power.

It erases the political construction of borders and the undergirding tenet that it is destiny that the U.S. exercise power and dominion over.

~ Alicia R. Forde

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
3 GREAT LOVES ~ LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

February 11, 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 *(Let's NOT shake hands!)*

Nancy Ellett Allison

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Shakti Subramanian

One: God of all, known by many names, we gather with gratitude for the earth and all who journey in it.

Many: **We give thanks for the interconnectedness of all creation.**

One: Open our eyes that we may see the immigrant and undocumented; whose labor enables and sustains our living;

Many: **the farm worker, the line cook, the childcare provider, the healthcare worker, the hotel employee;**

One: Give us the will to leave behind the safety of our personal sanctuaries to become your living sanctuary;

Many: **and claim our place in the movement to transform creation; that our voice, our heart, our spirit, will join the voice, hear and spirit of all who seek to live with respect, justice, and peace.**

* Prayer of Invocation *(Unison)*

Shakti Subramanian

Source of life and love, we thank you for the opportunity to gather in this sacred space of Sanctuary where all are safe and we are able to reflect on the meaning of our faith. Let our faith heal our brokenness. Let our faith guide us to solidarity. Let our faith call us to action. May the Sanctuary that has blessed us be opened to all who are vulnerable and oppressed. Let our faith inspire us to join the power of faith with the power of people to forge the common good for all. Amen.

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

* Hymn

“Gather Us In”

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
Shadows of doubt are vanished away:
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, our spirits inflame.
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

Not just in buildings, small and confining,
Not in some heaven light-years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is God present, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own,
Gather us in, all peoples together -
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

* Hymn

"Come As You Are"

by David Crowder

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come broken hearted, let rescue begin
Come find your mercy, oh exile come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

Refrain: So lay down your burdens, lay down your shame
All who are broken, lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home, you're not too far
Lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure (*Refrain*)

Come as you are, come as you are
Fall in Love's arms, come as you are
There's joy for the morning, oh my soul be still
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

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.)

Pastoral Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Gospel Lesson

Luke 10:25-37

Nancy Ellett Allison

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' And Jesus said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'

Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend."

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

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

"The Courage to Follow"

Julie Peeples

Special Music

“Would you Harbor Me?”

Women’s Ensemble

Words and Music by Ysaye M. Barnwell

*Judah Jones, Kathi Smith, Lisa Cloninger, Joy Decker,
Sally Young, Bridget Green, Meg Houlihan*

Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?
Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?
Would you harbor a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew,
A heretic, convict, or spy?
Would you harbor a runaway woman or child,
A poet, a prophet, a king?
Would you harbor an exile or a refugee,
A person living with AIDS?
Would you harbor a Tubman, a Garret, a Truth,
A fugitive or a slave?
Would you harbor a Haitian, Korean, or Czech,
A lesbian or a gay?
Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?

Offertory Invitation

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory

* 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

Nancy Ellett Allison

The Baptism & Reception of New Members

Baptism & Questions of the Candidates

Nancy Ellett Allison

Response of the Congregation

One: Will the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ please rise and join in the mutual promise and welcome?

*** Many:** **We welcome each of you and celebrate your journey of faith. We promise to search with you for truth in Scripture, word and witness; to walk with you in life's joys and sorrows; to support you when life is shaken; to laugh with you when life lifts your spirit; to share silence, song and sacrament; and to grow in Christian love and mutual appreciation. We will rely on God's sustaining presence as we journey forward together.**

Greeting of Christian Love

Hosts: *On behalf of the entire congregation, it is our pleasure to welcome you as full members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love and welcome.*

* Hymn 23

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

IN BABILONE

1. There’s a wide-ness in God’s mer-cy,
like the wide-ness of the sea;
there’s a kind-ness in God’s jus-tice,
which is more than lib-er-ty.
There’s no place where earth-ly sor-rows
are more felt than in God’s heaven;
there’s no place where earth-ly fail-ings
have such kind-ly judg-ment given.

2. For the love of God is broad-er
than the mea-sures of our minds;
and the heart of the E-ter-nal
is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
If our love were but more faith-ful,
we would glad-ly trust God’s word;
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing
for the good-ness of our God.

* Benediction

Julie Peeples

* 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

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.

WELCOME TO OUR GUEST PREACHER, REV. JULIE PEEPLES

Julie has been the Senior Minister of Congregational UCC since 1991, a leader in the denomination and her community. CUCC has now welcomed its second immigrant into sanctuary at their church. Among many other honors, Julie has received Equality NC's Equality Champion Award, the Guilford Green Foundation's Distinguished Leadership Award, and the UCC's Antoinette Brown Award in 2009. Her husband, Paul Davis, serves with her at CUCC.

DIALOGUE ON IMMIGRATION FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Join us in the Conference Room immediately following worship for a Q&A time with Julie. The session will be brief with finger food and drinks provided.

CONSISTORY MEETING FEBRUARY 18, ALL ARE WELCOME

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome new members Evelyn Fischer, William Judd, Shakti Subramanian, and Deborah Winston. Many thanks to our hosts Becky Wright, Kristin Andes & Tom Magraw, Suzanne Hopkins and Debbie Davis, for guiding our new members.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - TODAY!

We are going to offer you ONE MORE CHANCE TO SCORE BIG! Join our **Souper Bowl of Caring** team this Sunday and be generous. All proceeds collected at Holy Covenant will be sent to Loaves and Fishes. May the best team win!



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 or sign up on the sheets provided in the gathering room.

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

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

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

Register for a Lenten Growth Series

Name

Email

Class Choice

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to all who provide snacks after worship, part of providing our extravagant welcome! To help keep us organized, we are now using an electronic signup for volunteers called **SignUpGenius**. <https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks>

ROOM IN THE INN, TODAY

Thanks to all who have signed up! Please join us for a family style dinner and enjoy conversation with our neighbors, 6pm this Sunday to feed YOUR spirit! Thank you for all the supplies and your continued generosity of this ministry! Contact Suzanne Lamorey, SuzLam@yahoo.com, if you are able to join us.

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

Elder for February: Suzanne Lamorey, SuzLam@yahoo.com or 704-654-7267

Deacons for February: Jim Hong, Cheryl Milam

Greeters: Donna Collins, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Joy or Kevin Decker, Kevin Edwards Knight, Tom Magraw

Acolyte: Nate Ward

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Sally McLester, Kathi Smith

Refreshments: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Johnson

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Marj Carmine (Donna Collins), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Bill Funderburk, Kristy Howe (Eileen Howe), 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 Weidner (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

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

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