

Silent Meditation

Who knows what words do. But whatever it is it cannot be undone. Something that lays hidden in the heart is irrevocably released through speech into time, is given substance and tossed like a stone into the pool of history, where the concentric rings lap out endlessly. Words are power; essentially the power of creation. By my words, I both discover and create who I am...

~Frederick Buechner

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my journey.

Psalms 119:105

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

May 13, 2018

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

One: May the joy of the Living Christ be with you.

Many: May the risen Christ be with your spirit.

*(Please pass the information pads so that all worshippers
might have the opportunity to sign them)*

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Jim Hong

One: Listen closely! The Presence of the Lord is with us here and now!

Many: Listen to hear the voice of God. The voice that is still and small or loud as booming thunder.

One: Stop and be Alert! The words of God will be spoken here and now.

Many: Watch and wait. The message of God's grace and power surrounds us and uphold us in this place.

One: Watch for the signs—they are everywhere-- as the spirit moves with hope and love throughout our midst

Many: Our hearts and minds are opened to receive the transforming power and grace of the word of God.

All: The words of God's love are poured into our lives with transformation, power, healing and peace. Thanks be to God!

* Passing of the Peace

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 ϕ Sing Response ✕ Seating by Ushers*

* Hymn

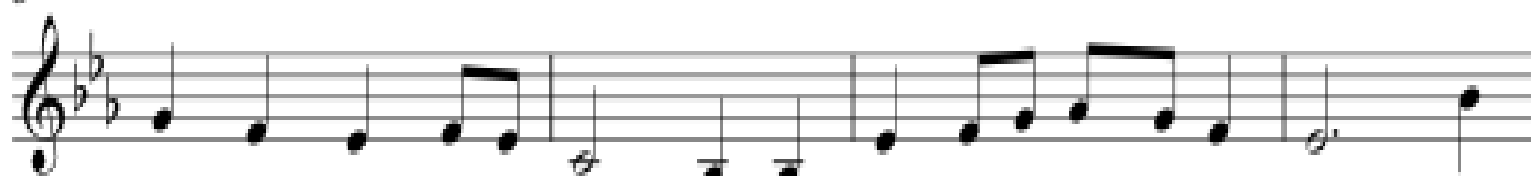
“O Word of God Incarnate”

NYLAND



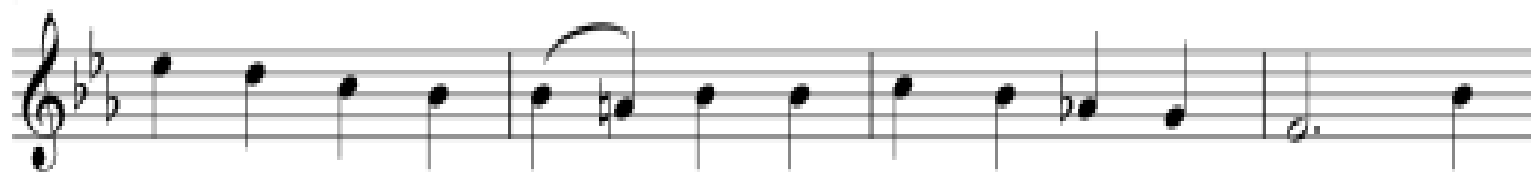
1. O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high, O
2. O God, we hold this_ trea - sure from you, its source di - vine, and
3. O make Thy Church, dear_ Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold, to

5



Truth, un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of cloud - ed sky! We
still that light she_ lift - eth o'er all the_ earth_ to shine. It
bear be - fore all_ pe - ople Thy true light. as_ of old! O

9



praise Thee for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page, a
is the chart and com - pass that through life's per' - lous sea, 'mid
teach Thy wand' - ring pil - grims by this, their path to trace, till,

13



lan - tern to our_ foot - steps, shines on from_ age_ to age.
mists and rocks and_ temp - est, still guides, O_ God,_ to thee.
clouds and dark_ ness en - ded. They see Thee face to face.

Hymn

“How She Loves”
(edited by Jared Fischer)

J. M. McMillan

She is jealous for me
Her love's like a hurricane, I am a tree
Bending beneath the weight of her wind and mercy.
When all of a sudden
I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory
And I realize just how beautiful you are
And how great your affections are for me

*Chorus I: And oh how you love us oh
Oh how you love us, how you love us so (Repeat all)*

*Chorus II: She love us, oh how She love us
Oh how She love us, oh how She loves!*

We are her portion and she is our prize,
Drawn to redemption by the grace in her eyes,
If grace is an ocean, we're all sinking.
And heaven meets earth with the force of a kiss
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest
I don't have time to maintain these regrets
When I think about the way *(Chorus II)*

My Mother's Most Important Words

Alix Felsing

Children's Message “Blanket the World with Love”

Barbara Thomas and the Children's Church

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

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 1: 1-3

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,

or sit in the seat of scoffers;

but their delight is in the law of the LORD,

and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees

planted by streams of water,

which yield their fruit in its season,

and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

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

Many: **Alleluia! Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

My Mother's Most Important Words

Robert Shepherd
Terry Raley-Dennis

My Mother's Most Important Words

Kathi Smith

Gospel Lesson

John 17:6-20

Nancy Ellett Allison

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and

the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.

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

Many: Alleluia! Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Sermon “The Importance of Words” Barbara Thomas

Offertory Invitation Nancy Ellett Allison

Offering Music “Free” W. Matthews & L. Gungor

There's a world at war / Caught in suffering

Silent casualties / Oh, God, grant us peace

In these sleepless nights / I can hardly breathe

Despite brutality / I know that we'll be free

I know that we'll be free

Chorus: Let the light in keep it shinin' / Let it break into the darkness

All the love dares us to see / We'll all be free

In these desperate times / Love will hold us here

Love will join our hands / Teach us to have no fear

So we lay our hate down / To wash their feet

When we see our brother / When we see our sister

When we see each other / Oh, we'll all be free

Yes, we'll all be free (*Chorus*)

We'll be free, free / We'll all be free (2x)

We are free, free / We'll all be free (2x) *Chorus* (2x)

* Response of Thanksgiving

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

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Hymn 319

“Wonderful Words of Life”

WORDS OF LIFE

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.

Refrain: Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life,
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;
sinner, wake to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
all so freely given, our sure hope of heaven. *(Refrain)*

Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior, keep me with you forever. *(Refrain)*

* Benediction

Barbara Thomas

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.

TODAY - BLANKET SUNDAY-“Blanket the World with Love”. Church World Service provides blankets for vulnerable families in the U.S. and around the world who are experiencing disasters, fleeing with their children, in refugee camps and at risk. Come visit the blanket table in the gathering room. Blankets can be purchased for \$10.00 in honor of your Mom or someone close to you for Mother’s Day. Cards are available that are colored by HCUCC children!

SIGN UP TODAY RAFTING RETREAT AT YMCA CENTER~~ BLACK MOUNTAIN, AUGUST 10-12 Everyone welcome ~ Family Friendly! Evening sessions (with kid’s breakouts) on Friday and Saturday. Sunday morning worship. Saturday Whitewater Rafting ~ Relaxing Tube Trip. (Priced separately) Cost \$130 per adult, kid’s meals \$35. Contact **Barbara Schneller**, bschneller@wcupa.edu or **Rev. Barbara, BarbaraT@holycovenantucc.org** for more information.

DO YOU HAVE A GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY?

Please notify the church office of students associated with Holy Covenant who will be graduating from high school or college this spring. We would like a picture and brief bio for each student for publication in the bulletin on Graduation Sunday. office@holycovenantucc.org

MAY 19, 10 AM SANDWICH MINISTRY AT HARRIS

All are welcomed to participate in this brief but meaningful time of fellowship and sandwich making. Gather for assembly line construction of 100+ hearty sandwiches for benefit of Urban Ministry Center.

MAY 20, WEAR RED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

In celebration of the coming of the Spirit and Acts witness to “divided tongues, as of fire” resting on each of the worshipers, wear red or orange or yellow to demonstrate the presence of God in each of our lives.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 20 - Viewing and discussion of *An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story* (documentary)

May 27 - Next video in the Bart Ehrman series *How Jesus Became God*

Class begins at 9:45, usually in the Conference Room, and all are welcome -- no preparation necessary.

MAY 22, 3PM UNITED CHURCH FUNDS/WNCA PRESENTS WEBINAR

“Women Investing Today - Seeking Justice in Our Financial Lives”
<https://ucfunds.org/2018/05/women-investing-today-seeking-justice-in-our-financial-lives/>

JUNE 10, ALL CHURCH PICNIC; BOUNCE HOUSE AND GIANT JENGA!

Join us following worship for a Pork BBQ picnic. Hospitality will provide buns & beverages, Jim Dwiggins is providing the "Q". Sign up in the gathering room with your side dish or desert to share. Fun for all!

YOGA4ALL AT HOLY COVENANT, WEDNESDAYS* 7:30 pm

***Except for May 23rd**

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities.... Beginners and those who are yoga-curious are encouraged to attend. If you have questions, contact **David Smith**

davidsmith02b@gmail.com or 704-533-2142.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS! YMCA's SUMMER "Y READERS" PROGRAM

This program targets K-3rd grade children who are reading below grade level and need some personal attention to increase their reading and writing skills, with the goal to be proficient in reading by end of 3rd grade. **Hidden Valley, Huntingtowne Farms, Huntersville Elementary, Iron Station, Reid Park Academy, Albemarle Road, Hickory Grove, Highland Renaissance, Nations Ford, and Park View Schools.** Contact **Lisa Sherman** at **jsherman007@carolina.rr.com** or 704-737-8263

TRAVELING? Look for the toiletries and amenities collection bin in the gathering room. Bring your unused travel size shampoos, soaps, lotions, shower caps, etc. We'll see they get to those who need them!

MISSIONS AND JUSTICE TEAM

is looking for coordinators for ministry with **Elon Homes & Schools for Children** and for the **LGBTQ Ministries**. If you're interested, contact **Lloyd Spencer**, **lloydspencer@triad.rr.com** for more information.

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

Elder for May: Robert Shepherd, RShepVidEd@att.net or 704-618-1322

Deacons for May: Debbie Davis, Gregg Walker

Greeters: Suzanne Lamorey, Susan Pascucci

Ushers: Kevin Edwards Knight, Joy or Kevin Decker, Susan Pascucci

Acolyte: Nate Ward

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Diane Rogers, Kathleen Smith

Refreshments: Martha Bomely, Kim Tyler

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Susan Bennett Stiles, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Linn Finger, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Alice Phelan, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed Sharp, Caroline & Don Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Diane Brown (Renee Brown & Kelly Gimlin), Baby Girl Cregan (Barb Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Bill Funderburk, Caroline Herdle (Beth Sharp), Kim Hobbs (Melissa Noll), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren), Beth Poyer Meyer, Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Becky Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Norma Spencer (Donna Collins), Norma Thomas (Barbara Thomas), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Janet Lees Watson (Donna Collins), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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