



Silent Meditation

What I Have Learned So Far

Meditation is old and honorable, so why should I not sit, every morning of my life, on the hillside, looking into the shining world? Because, properly attended to, delight, as well as havoc, is suggestion. Can one be passionate about the just, the ideal, the sublime, and the holy, and yet commit to no labor in its cause? I don't think so.

All summations have a beginning, all effect has a story, all kindness begins with the sown seed. Thought buds toward radiance. The gospel of light is the crossroads of -- indolence, or action.

Be ignited, or be gone.

~ Mary Oliver

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SECOND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

June 3, 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.)*

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Cheri Dennis

One: We come to hear God's call.

Many: **Life can be a mystery.**

One: We are surprised by what we hear.

Many: **Witness can be a mystery.**

One: We are invited to be part of God's new creation.

Many: **Let us live into the mystery, walking by faith.**

* Passing of the Peace

Cheri Dennis

One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of 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*

God of grace and God of glory,
On your people pour your power;
Crown your ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us
And assail the Savior's ways,
From the fears that long have bound us-
Free our heart for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Make our broken spirits whole,
Make our broken spirits whole.

Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the search for your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving you whom we adore,
Serving you whom we adore.

“We Are One in the Spirit”
(edited by Jared Fischer)

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored**

***Refrain:* And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they’ll know we are Christians by our love**

**We will work with each other; we will work side by side
We will work with each other; we will work side by side
‘Til each cruel bond is broken, every fell yoke untied *(Refrain)***

**We hymn the Creator, from whom all things come
We hymn Christ Jesus, God’s only Son
We hymn the Spirit, who makes us one. *(Refrain)***

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 2:23-3:6

Renee Brown

One sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, ‘Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when

Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.’ Then he said to them, ‘The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.’

Again Jesus entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who

had the withered hand, 'Come forward.' Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they were silent. Jesus looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against Jesus, how to destroy 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.**

Pastoral Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 4: 1-9

Robert Shepherd

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ...For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

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

"That's How the Light Gets In"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Robert Shepherd

Offering Music

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

☩ **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.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

One: We come with joy, each a child of God, forgiven, loved and free.

Many: **The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me.**

One: We come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,

Many: **The new community of love in Christ's communion bread.**

One: As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.

Many: **The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends**

One: Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,

Many: **And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray.**

(from Brian Wren "I Come with Joy")

All: **We celebrate this open table, where all are welcome, no exceptions. We share bread and wine with Christians around the world, celebrating that in Christ we are many who can be one, and praying for God's peace that makes us whole. As we drink the cup and eat the bread, may the Spirit be with us, enlivening us with courage and hope to join together in the sacred work of restoring our shared planet.**

The Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

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.

Music during Communion

“My Only”

Music Cooperative

All day long, we are sinking just like stones
Into the shadow of Your kindness
In this shade between the wingspan of Your grace is
The only place where we can bed these burdens down, so I

Refrain: Lift my eyes up to the hills. Who is going to help me now?
You're my only, you're my only, you're my only hope

Tangled up in the great ridiculous way You love,
It is the only way to live
There's no escape, when your eyes pierce through the fray
I stare just like a deer into the headlights of Your ways, and I
(Refrain)

And You come like the sun with pockets full of redemption
And You come with the sun, with the sun.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We give thanks, Living God, for all the members of your universal church; may we be bound together by the spiritual ties of this celebration. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another until all of us come to the unity of faith through the Living Christ. Amen.

Hymn

“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 (2x)*

We'll be free, free / We'll all be free *(4x)*
We are free, free / We'll all be free *(2x) Chorus (2x)*

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

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.

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

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 dessert to share. Fun for all!

WELCOME SUNDAY, JUNE 10

We will welcome new members into our church family on June 10. Please contact Debbie Davis at debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com if you would like to join Holy Covenant on June 10 and have not previously talked with Pastor Nancy about joining or have any questions about our next Welcome Sunday. We are indeed blessed by all who choose to journey together in ministry at HCUCC!

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

"I'M FINE": RESILIENCE STRATEGIES, JUNE 10, 9 AM

Want to learn how to recover your balance quickly when you're under stress and things aren't going well? Alix Felsing will lead a workshop that includes a resilience self-assessment and discuss strategies you can use to restore and keep your equilibrium when things aren't so fine. All are welcome to join this standalone session. RSVP AlixFelsing@gmail.com or 704-589-2026

SALISBURY PRIDE, SIGN UP BY JUNE 13!

Please plan to sign up to help staff our HCUCC booth at the Salisbury Pride Festival to be held on **Saturday, June 23, 11 AM -5 PM** in historic downtown Salisbury. This event is a wonderful outreach to share information about our church and share our witness with many who attend this festival. **Sign up by June 13th** in the Gathering Room. Contact Suzanne Lamorey, suzlam@yahoo.com with questions.

GOING DEEPER SPIRITUALLY, JUNE 28, 7 PM

Our next gathering will be 7:00 pm Thursday, June 28 at the home of Kristin Andes and Tom Magraw. Bring a "table blessing" to share with the group that holds meaning for you; one from your own heritage, or one from another culture. RSVP Anne Findlay-Chamberlain kahuanne@gmail.com, Kristin kjandes@aol.com, or Tom tmagraw@aol.com, by June 26.

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 OR Relaxing Tube Trip. (Priced separately) Cost \$130 per adult, kid's meals \$35. **SIGN UP TODAY!** Contact **Barbara Schneller** or **Rev. Barbara Thomas** for more information.

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

The HCUCC book club reading schedule:

June 13 - *Americanah* by *Ngozhi Adichie* (Mary Ann Miklos)

*July 10 - *Discovering the South* by *Jennifer Ritterhouse* (Diane Burleson)

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte. Please join us for thoughtful, lively discussions.

CELEBRATIONS - ORDER YOUR BRICK NOW!

Please consider ordering a memorial garden brick for \$100 check made out to Holy Covenant UCC and honor your special occasion or loved one through an enscripted brick. Order forms are available at the church or you may contact Debbie Davis at debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com for ...

an electronic order form. We will be placing our next brick order by mid-June, please be a part of it!

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday, June 10 & 17, join us for a discussion “Sanctuary Churches- What are they and what are the ways we can be supportive?” All are welcome to attend at 9:45 in the Conference Room, and no preparation is necessary.

A TU LADO - IMMIGRANT ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAM, JUNE 24

Together, let’s learn what the HCUCC can do to support immigrant communities in Charlotte. One way is through A Tu Lado (*By Your Side*), an accompaniment program that provides support to recently arrived immigrants in deportation proceedings through partnerships of accompaniment, mutual understanding and advocacy toward due process and justice. Join us June 24, after worship as we learn about this program. Questions? Contact Cheri Dennis, cdennis2@carolina.rr.com or 704-519-6016.

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP

SignUpGenius. <https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks>

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

Elder for June: Kathi Smith, kathleenie53@msn.com or 704-614-7674

Deacons for June: Joe Behr Stenzel, Jim Hong

Greeters: Aida Marcial, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: JP Griffin, Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barb Schneller

Acolyte: Riley Moder

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Alice Phelan

Refreshments: South side CG WIP

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Renee, Sydney & Kelly in the death of Renee's mother, Diane Brown

Caroline & Don Utz in the death of their daughter, Jennifer Howlett

Susan Bennett Stiles, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Caroline & Don Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Baby Girl Cregan (Barb Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Bill Funderburk, Caroline Herdle (Beth Sharp), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren), Beth Poyer Meyer, Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Beckye Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Rev. Barbara Thomas, Minister for Church & Family Life

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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