



Silent Meditation

Said of Bilbo Baggins in "The Hobbit"

He had lost his reputation. It is true that forever after he remained an elf-friend, and had the honor of dwarves, wizards, and all such folk as ever passed that way; but he was no longer quite respectable. He was in fact held by all the hobbits of the neighborhood to be "queer."

I am sorry to say he did not mind. He was quite content; and the sound of the kettle on his hearth was ever after more musical than it had been even in the quiet days before the Unexpected Party ... and though many shook their heads and touched their foreheads and said "Poor old Baggins!" and though few believed any of his tales, he remained very happy to the end of his days.

~J.R.R. Tolkein

HOLD FAST TO DREAMS,
FOR IF DREAMS DIE
LIFE IS A BROKEN-WINGED BIRD,
THAT CANNOT FLY.

~ LANGSTON HUGHES

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SIXTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

July 1, 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

Jim & Faye Humphrey

One: Pilgrims, come! Let us journey together.

**Many: O God, you are always calling us out, always calling us
forward in life.**

One: Pilgrims come! We seek to trust the God who always surprises.

**Many: Our God leads us to new life; pulling our fears, our doubts,
our longings behind us.**

One: Pilgrims, come! Let us sing a new song to God!

**All: Our God is eager to celebrate with us, wherever we are in our
journey.**

* Passing of the Peace

Jim & Faye Humphrey

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*

* Hymns

"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*)

"All My Hope"

David Crowder

I've been held by the Savior / I've felt fire from above
I've been down to the river / I ain't the same, I'm a prodigal returned

Chorus: All my hope is in Jesus / Thank God that yesterday's gone
All my sins are forgiven / I've been washed in the flood

I'm no stranger to the prison / I've worn shackles and chains
But I've been freed and forgiven / And I'm not going back,
I'll never be the same / That's why I sing (*Chorus*)

There's a kind of thing that just breaks you down
Breaks you down to your knees
God, I've been broken more than a time or two
Yes, Lord, then you picked me up and showed me
What it means to be your child (*Chorus*)

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.)

Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 11:8-12,12:1-2

Brian & Dorrie Hankins

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God...

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

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

* Resurrection Hymn

"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.
But 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.

Pastoral Prayer Barbara Thomas

Contemporary Reading Barbara Thomas
"The Hobbit"
J.R.R. Tolkien

Gandalf, "I am looking for someone to share in an adventure that I am arranging, and it's very difficult to find anyone."

"I should think so—in these parts! We are plain quiet folk and have no use for adventures. Nasty disturbing uncomfortable things! Make you late for dinner! I can't think what anybody sees in them," said our Mr. Baggins. Then he took out his morning letters, and began to read, pretending to take no more notice of the old man. He had decided that he was not quite his sort, and wanted him to go away. But the old man did not move. He stood leaning on his stick and gazing at the hobbit without saying anything till Bilbo got quite uncomfortable and even a little cross.

"Good morning!" he said at last. "We don't want any adventures here, thank you! You might try over The Hill or across The Water." By this he meant that the conversation was at an end.

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 Nancy Ellett Allison
"The Trouble with Adventures"

Offertory Invitation Barbara Thomas

Offering Music Jared Fischer

* 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

* One: We invite all who celebrate Christ's life and love to join us at this table of fellowship. Let us give words to our feelings.

All: **Spirit of the universe, our souls are in need of nourishment. Our inadequacies drain our spirit. Our frustrations drain our spirit. The hurts and the pains of our world drain our spirit. We need to be fed. With our spirits and our hearts wide open we move to the table. Nourish us for our sake and for the sake of all we touch. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Nancy Ellett Allison

Prayer of Consecration

(Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

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 “Your Love Remains” J. Arndt and D. Gungor
words and music adapted to Psalm 23 by Jared Fischer

Through the darkness, through the fire,
through my fleeting heart’s desire
Your love remains, Your love remains.

Though I wonder far away, squander all Your freedom gave,
Your love remains, Your love remains.

O my, my soul, it cries,
Your swift hand, swiftly replies
To rescue me, you rescue me.

In green pastured hills you lead, then by waters still, your keep,
Your rod and staff, they comfort me.

When my enemies surround, still your table there abounds,
My cup is filled, my cup is filled.

Though I walk Death’s dark valley,
There Your strong hands uphold me,
I fear no evil, You are with me.

Surely goodness, surely mercy, surely kindness all my days
Will follow me, will follow me.

In Your house I’ll ever dwell and everywhere and ever still
Your love remains, Your love remains.

O my soul, Your praises cries,
O my soul, Your praise it cries,
My soul it cries, My soul it cries out.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

We have been fed. Each of our spirits have been united by the bread and the cup. Let us feel the energy of wholeness no matter who we are or what our situation in life might be. We are nourished and we are grateful. Amen.

“Beautiful Things”

M. and L. Gungor

All this pain, I wonder if I’ll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change at all.

All this earth, could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

Chorus: You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of the dust;
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us.

All around, hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos, life is being found in You. (*Chorus*)

You make me new, You are making me new...

“You Are Good”

Lord, you are good and your mercy endureth forever! (2x)

People from every nation and tongue, from generation to generation,

We worship you, hallelujah, hallelujah,

We worship you for who you are! (2x)

And you are good!

* 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

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.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

All are welcome to attend at 9:45 in the Conference Room each Sunday!

#FAITHWITHFEET CAMPAIGN

Thank you for support of Juan, an eight year old from Guatemala being deported. We need funds to help defray the cost of travel for Juan and Suzanne Lamorey, who will accompany him. **Please send donations made out to Holy Covenant and write *Guatemala* in the memo.** Questions? Contact Lisa Cloninger at lisacmsw@hotmail.com. #FaithwithFeet.

SPECIAL OFFERING CHRISTMAS IN JULY

On July 29, 2018, we will receive the UCC Christmas Fund offering to show appreciation for the many pastors who have helped carry our burdens. Many of these aging and retired pastors have served small churches in rural areas that simply do not have the means to financially support them once they retire. These dedicated men and women served selflessly, and we have a chance to give them the thanks they deserve. This is the one time we are asked to match our appreciation with our resources for those who have retired from faithful service to the church. Please memo your offering ***UCC Christmas Fund***.

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>

YOGA4ALL AT HOLY COVENANT, WEDNESDAYS 7:30PM

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities. Questions? Contact David at davidsmith02b@gmail.com

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

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.

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

Elder for July: Michael Baldonado,
michaelbaldonado@hotmail.com or 502-541-5957

Deacons for July: Sally Duffy, Cheryl Milam

Greeters: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Johnson

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

Acolyte: Riley Moder

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Renee Brown

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Alice Phelan

Refreshments: Rebecca MacNair-Semands

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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), Logan Bayes, Caryn Capps, 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, Arold Powers (Mary Jo Powers), Walter Rlaey (Jean Raley Dennis), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Anne Sherrill (Donna Collins), 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

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