



Silent Meditation

From the first moment of my existence, before I did anything, the seed of my true identity as a human being is present deep within: I came from God; I am an image of God; Love is the ground of my being; I share in God's life in a relationship of untold intimacy. I may be marginal in the eyes of this world, but the true "I" is essentially not of "this world." I have been awakened to my true identity in God, which every human being shares. This truth has changed me. Who I am is not a goal to achieve but a gift to receive, and I'm learning to wake up each morning and receive it.

~Jim Palmer

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NINTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

July 22, 2018

Gathering Music

David A. Smith

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

David A. Smith

* Call to Worship

Shakti Subramanian

One: Let us rejoice in the light of these summer days!

**Many: In the glory and warmth of the summer sun and in the
blooming and bursting of new life**

One: We praise God for all God has done for the world!

**Many: Let us rejoice in the earth with its grass and trees and its
weeds and flowers, its many fruits and hidden treasures**

One: We praise God for all God's ways of growth and fruitfulness,
righteousness and peace.

**Many: Help us remember your abundance and generosity; help us
know that all nations and peoples shall one day awaken to
your love and blessing.**

One: For by grace, we are each what God has made, created in Christ
for good works.

**Many: As Jesus proclaims peace to those far off and those near at
hand, may we too proclaim peace in all our living.**

* Passing of the Peace

Shakti Subramanian

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*

* Hymn

“How You Love”
(edited by Jared Fischer)

J. M. McMillan

You are jealous for me
Your love's like a hurricane, I am a tree
Bending beneath the weight of your 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: You love us, oh how you love us
Oh how you love us, oh how you love!*

We are your portion and you are our prize,
Drawn to redemption by the grace in your 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*)

“Here I Am Lord”

Dan Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky/ I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin/ My hand will save

Chorus:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me/I will hold your people in my heart

I, who made the stars of night/ I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? (*Chorus*)

I, the Lord of snow and rain/ I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them/ They turn away

(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 6:30-34, 53-56 Robert Shepherd

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over (the Sea of Galilee once again), they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized Jesus, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged Jesus that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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

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

Special Music

"Grace Flows Down"
Solo, Laura Valles

Christy Nockels

Amazing grace/How sweet the sound
Amazing love/Now flowing down
From hands and feet/That were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me

It covers me, It covers me, It covers me, And it covers me

Grace flows down it covers me
All of my sin, all of my sin, it covers all of my sin
It covers my heart, it covers my heart
Thank you Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, sweet Jesus

Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 2:1-10

Barbara Thomas

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which God loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Christ and seated in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come God might show the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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Sermon

“We Are What God Has Made Us”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Barbara Thomas

Offering Music

David A. Smith

* Offering Response 55

MARION

☩ **Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God forevermore
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

* Offertory Dedication

Barbara Thomas

* Hymn 416

“I will Trust in the Lord”
(African American Spiritual)

TRUST IN THE LORD

I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord ‘till I die. (2x)

I'm gonna treat everybody right, I'm gonna treat everybody right,
I'm gonna treat everybody right ‘till I die. (2x)

* 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

David A. Smith

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

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.

SAYING GOODBYE TO BARBARA

Barbara Thomas, our Minister for Church and Family Life has accepted a fulltime position at Dove's Nest. We are incredibly grateful for her ministry among us and we will have a reception for her following worship on July 29. Rather than collecting a "Love Offering" for her, Barbara has asked that we serve as a sponsor of Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk. Checks may be made out to Holy Covenant with "CROP Walk" in the memo line and this would be a tax deductible contribution. Cash contributions may be given to Martha Bomely.

MUSICIANS TODAY

David Smith, who has been a member of Holy Covenant since 1994 is stepping in, once again, to help with our music ministry during this interim time. In addition to leading us from the piano for hymns and worship music, David has agreed to lead the Music Cooperative while we search for new leadership. Thank you David & Band Members!

SPECIAL UCC OFFERING: CHRISTMAS IN JULY

\$1000 Challenge Gift! One of our members has offered to match every gift up to \$1000 for this offering. Let's go over \$2000! 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. 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**.

GOING DEEPER SPIRITUALLY, JULY 26, 7 PM

Wear your sneakers to the home of Debbie Davis and Ann Watkins as we walk to Freedom Park and around the lake to listen for God in Nature. Following our walk, we will gather by the firepit to share reflections of our active meditation. RSVP by July 25 to Anne Findlay-Chamberlain, kahuanne@gmail.com or Debbie Davis debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com, 1206 Marlwood Terrace, Charlotte NC. Hope you can join us!

GREENFAITH MEETING AUGUST 5

Rev. Amy Brooks, green-circle organizer, will be meeting with us following worship to share the GreenFaith initiative that is beginning in the Charlotte area. GreenFaith initiatives bring people together from different congregations and communities at the local level to address environmental concerns.

#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.

CHARLOTTE PRIDE'S ANNUAL INTERFAITH SERVICE, AUGUST 12

St. John's Baptist Church, 300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte at 4:00 PM.
Reception following.

CHARLOTTE PRIDE, AUGUST 18 & 19

HCUCC BOOTH DOWNTOWN SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Can you help with the HCUCC booth? Look for the signup sheet in the Gathering Room.

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

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>

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

Aug 8 - *The Sense of an Ending* by *Julian Barnes* (and if you have the time - *Our Souls at Night* by *Kent Haruf*) discussion leader Sue Pascucci
Sept 12- *Pachinko* by *Min Jin Lee* discussion leader Barbara Schneller. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 AM at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte. Please join us for thoughtful, lively discussions.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners have begun a three-month Bible study of Acts, led by our own Barb Schneller. We'll review Bart Ehrman video series *How Jesus Became God* viewing Lecture 17 on the last Sunday in July. Everyone is welcome to join us at 9:45 in the Conference Room-no preparation necessary.

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: Laura Hankins, Suzanne Lamorey
Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, Michael Sladek, Eileen Howe
Acolyte: Riley Long
Media: Brian Hankins, Debbie Davis, Olivia Carney
Tabulators: Terry Raley Dennis, Karen Long
Refreshments: Lisa Cloninger, Kathleen Smith, Alix Felsing
Recyclers: Suzanne Lamorey

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, Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), 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

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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