



Silent Meditation

“The country is in deep trouble. We've forgotten that a rich life consists fundamentally of serving others, trying to leave the world a little better than you found it.

We need the courage to question the powers that be, the courage to be impatient with evil and patient with people, the courage to fight for social justice. ...

To live is to wrestle with despair, yet never allow despair to have the last word.”

~Cornel West

But all our phrasing—race relations, racial chasm, racial justice, racial profiling, white privilege, even white supremacy—serves to obscure that racism is a visceral experience, that it dislodges brains, blocks airways, rips muscle, extracts organs, cracks bones, breaks teeth.

You must never look away from this. You must always remember that the sociology, the history, the economics, the graphs, the charts, the regressions all land, with great violence, upon the body.”

~ Ta-Nehisi Coates

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

August 26, 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

Laura Hankins

One: Summoned by the Creator, we come together in worship.

Many: It is a bold and generous invitation to celebrate;

One: to celebrate God,

Many: and each and all of us made in the image of God.

One: O my! What beauty!

Many: What glorious colors and hues!

What wonderful shapes and sizes!

One: Gathered in worship of this beautiful God,

Many: and in the company of God's beautiful creations;

One: we cannot help but sing and dance and shout!

Many: With hearts readied in love, souls pregnant with praise,

One: and bodies inclined to act anew;

**All: we come together to worship God and celebrate our
communion.**

* Passing of the Peace

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

“Sister-Brother, Peaceful Spirit”
lyrics by Jann Aldredge-Clanton

BEECHER

**Sister-Brother peaceful Spirit, send Your power to heal the earth;
Overcoming hate and violence, we join You to bring new birth.
Equal partners on your mission, sisters, brothers, side by side,
We move forward into freedom, hearts and minds now open wide.**

**Brother-Sister, loving Spirit, send Your grace to calm our fears;
Changing stifling forms and customs, we can feel you always near.
As we face each risk and challenge, deep within we hear Your voice,
Giving courage for our journey, so that now our hearts rejoice.**

**Sisters, brothers, join together, helping all be fair and free,
Breaking walls and building bridges, making dreams reality.
As we nurture all creation, we fulfill our sacred call;
Come, rejoice and tune our music to the oneness of us all.**

* Hymn

“Amazing Grace”
by Rob Simonsen/Traditional
Tyler Smith, soloist

I grew this heart into a drifter/ I never felt the roots I bare
I sold my sight, oh brother, sister/ For a mountain of fool's gold,
it's gone/ Only God Knows, God knows where

My soul was restless for redemption
My feet were lookin' for a place to stand
Well I ain't got no life/ And you know I ain't got no money
Just the faith of an empty hand
Amazing grace, I feel you coming up slowly now

Like the sun is risin', heat on my face
Oh love that keeps on shinin', don't let the shadow come
Ya know I gotta feel your healin' rays

I hitched a ride, I was a beggar/ I had a murder on my hands
I needed water to rinse these stains
But only blood could remove what's spillin'/ And pardon me the blame

Amazing grace, I feel you coming up slowly now (3x)
Like the sun is risin', heat on my face
Oh, love that keeps on shinin', don't let the shadow come
You know I got to...

See, I gotta feel your healin' rays
You know I gotta feel your amazing grace (repeat)

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 7:14-23

Alix Felsing

Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.'

When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. Jesus said to them, 'Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?' (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And Jesus said, 'It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

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

Special Music

“Fear is a Liar”

by Ingram, Williams & Smith

Tyler Smith, soloist & Music Cooperative

When he told you you're not good enough
When he told you you're not right
When he told you you're not strong enough
To put up a good fight
When he told you you're not worthy
When he told you you're not loved
When he told you you're not beautiful
That you'll never be enough

Chorus: Fear, he is a liar/ He will take your breath
Stop you in your steps/ Fear he is a liar
He will rob your rest/ Steal your happiness
Cast your fear in the fire/'Cause fear he is a liar

When he told you were troubled
You'll forever be alone
When he told you you should run away
You'll never find a home
When he told you you were dirty
And you should be ashamed
When he told you you could be the one
That grace could never change (Chorus)

Let Your fire fall and cast out all my fears
Let Your fire fall Your love is all I feel (*Repeat*) (*Chorus*)

Epistle Lessons

Ephesians 6:5-9

Gregg Walker

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ; not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord, whether we are slaves or free.

And, masters, do the same to them. Stop threatening them, for you know that both of you have the same Master in heaven, and with God there is no partiality.

Galatians 3:24-29

The law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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

“Me? A Hypocrite?”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Hymn of Response “Our God Will See Us Through” WE SHALL OVERCOME

☩ **Our God will see us through, our God will see us through,
Our God will see us through this day;
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe,
Our God will see us through this day**

Offertory Invitation

Gregg Walker

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

Gregg Walker

* Hymn 575

“O for a World”

AZMON

1. O for a world where ev-ery-one re-spects each oth-er's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with jus-tice and with praise.
2. O for a world where goods are shared and mis-er-y re-lieved,
Where truth is spo-ken, chil-dren spared, e-qual-i-ty a-chieved.
3. We wel-come one world fam-i-ly and strug-gle with each choice
That o-pens us to u-ni-ty and gives our vi-sion voice.
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool-ish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: out-casts be-long, who per-ish-es will rise.
5. O for a world pre-par-ing for God's glo-rious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

* 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

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.

NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

If you would like to learn more about our congregation or become a member at Holy Covenant, please join our Inquirer's Classes!

September 16 9:30 am Who We Are and What We Believe

September 23 9:30 am History of UCC & Holy Covenant

September 30 12:30 pm Consistory-Led Luncheon on Ministry Teams Organization & Opportunities for Involvement

October 14 WELCOME SUNDAY welcoming new members into membership at Holy Covenant.

Please contact Debbie Davis at Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com with questions or to let her know you plan to attend. Childcare is available if needed.

MUSIC DURING OUR INTERIM: THANK YOU TO TYLER & DAVID A. SMITH

We are grateful to David and the Music Cooperative for leading us in worship in this interim time. Tyler Smith joins us today from Monks Corner, NC. Welcome!

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

September 12; Pachinko by *Min Jin Lee* discussion leader Barbara Schneller. **October 17; 1984 by George Orwell** discussion leader Sue Pascucci. November 14; Varina by *Charles Frazier* discussion leader is Jon Heaslet. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte.

CONSISTORY & MISSIONS & JUSTICE TEAM WILL MEET TODAY

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

All are welcomed!

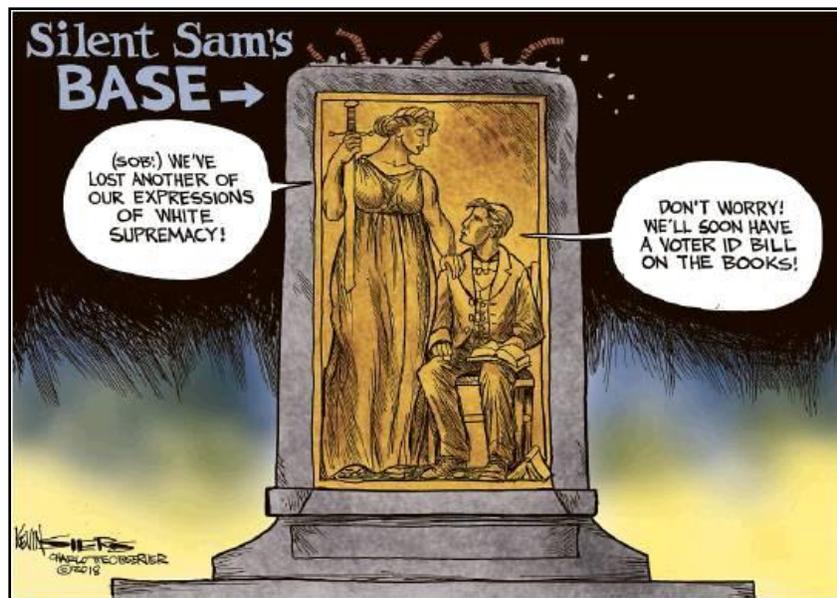
ARE YOU OUR 2018 DELEGATE TO THE WNCA?

We would love to have YOU attend and learn more about our engagement with the Association. Ask any clergy member for more info, contact Dawn if you are able to attend the entire day and serve as a voting delegate, office@holycovenantucc.org.

The Future of the Local Church-Following Christ in a Changing World

Saturday, October 6 from 9:00am - 3:00pm

Abernathy Laurels Retirement Community in Newton, NC



Artist Kevin Siers, Charlotte Observer, August 22, 2018

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

Elder for August: Faye Humphrey, fghumphrey@yahoo.com or 704-618-2750

Deacons for August: Martha Bomely, Diane Rogers

Greeters: Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, Michael Sladek, Eileen Howe

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley Dennis, Karen Long

Refreshments: Aida Marcial, Recycler: Suzanne Lamorey

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Jim & Lisa Sherman in the death of Jim's mother, Margaret Sherman
Susan Bennett Stiles, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Joanna Billingsley in the death of her son, Mark Henley

The Epting family in the death of Jim Epting (Robert Shepherd)

Friends & family of Bryan Anderegg

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Ashley & Baby Evelyn Kate Cregan (Barbara Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Caroline Herdle (Beth Sharp), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren), Barbara Lees (Donna Collins), 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), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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