



Silent Meditation

As often happens on the spiritual journey, we have arrived at the heart of a paradox: each time a door closes, the rest of the world opens up. All we need to do is to stop pounding on the door that just closed, turn around - which puts the door behind us - and welcome the largeness of life that now lies open to our souls. The door that closed kept us from entering a room, but what now lies before us is the rest of reality.

~ Parker J. Palmer

Those who have gone before us have left a clear witness: We may seek God or we may seek ease, but we cannot seek both. The road we travel is anything but easy. It is true that God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives, but it is equally true that the plan is often fraught with tension and uncertainty, and with emotional, spiritual, and physical pain.

~ Gary Thomas

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

October 14, 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

Kristin Andes

* Call to Worship

Martha Bomely

One: The complaints of others settle in our mind and cloud our vision,

Many: **Open our eyes to Your vision of life, O God.**

One: The buzz of the world interrupts our lives and fills our ears,

Many: **Open our ears to Your way of life, O God.**

One: The cries of the poor, the oppressed and the outcast pierce our hearts,

Many: **Open our hearts to Your example of living for others, O God.**

One: Fill our hearts, fill our eyes, fill our ears with Your love, O God,

Many: **Let us be Your hands and feet in the world, O God. Let us
worship You together.**

* 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*

1. Guide me, O my great Re-deem-er,
pil-grim through this bar-ren land;
I am weak, but you are might-y;
hold me with your power-ful hand.
Bread of heav-en, bread of heav-en,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

2. O-pen now the crys-tal foun-tain,
where the heal-ing wa-ters flow.
Let the fire and cloud-y pil-lar
lead me all my jour-ney through.
Strong de-liv-erer, strong de-liv-erer,
ev-er be my strength and shield,
ev-er be my strength and shield.

3. When I reach the Riv-er Jor-dan,
bid my anx-ious fears sub-side.
Death of death, and hell’s de-struc-tion,
land me safe on heav-en’s side.
Songs of prais-es, songs of prais-es
I will ev-er sing to you,
I will ev-er sing to you.

“A New Hallelujah”

by Michael W. Smith

**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*)**

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 4:9-16

Phil Kaveler

So then, a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors as did God. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest...

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before God no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession (of faith). For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

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

* Hymn

“O How I Need You”

Music Cooperative

by S. Garrard, L. Jordan, D. Leonard, P. Mabury, Mother Theresa

Lord I find You in the seeking, Lord I find You in the doubt
And to know You is to love You, and to know so little else.

Refrain: I need You, O how I need You!
O how I need You, O how I need You!

Lord I find You in the morning, Lord I seek You everyday,
Let my life be for Your glory, woven in Your threads of grace. *(Refrain)*

Light, glorious light, I will go where You shine
Break the dawn, crack the skies, make the way bright before me
In Your light I will find all I need, all I need is You. *(Refrain)*

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

Stewardship Witness

Jim Hong

Special Music

“Home to You”

Lisa Cloninger, Kathleen Smith, vocals

Music Cooperative

* Gospel Lesson

Mark 10: 17-28

Cheri Lovell

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.”’ He said to him, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’ Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’

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 “The Tragic Gap” Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation Cheri Lovell

Offering Music David A. Smith

* Offering Response 55 MARION

ϕ **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 Cheri Lovell

Called Congregational Meeting Jeff Edwards-Knight

A Word of Witness Fred Robinson

* Benediction Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response 391 NEW DIMENSIONS

ϕ **God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar;
We, your people, ours the journey now and ever,
Now and ever, now and evermore.**

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.

WHAT SHALL I BRING?

How can you help transform Holy Covenant through our 2019 Spending Plan? Our goal this year is to have a total of \$195,000.00 pledged to the General Fund and \$50,000 pledged to the Building Fund. Please consider the ministries which make a difference through Holy Covenant and make your commitment for the upcoming year. An online commitment can be made at HolyCovenantUCC.org.

CHOIR REHEARSAL FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Following worship today you are welcome to stay and join our choir for Advent and Christmas music rehearsals. Most Sundays following worship we will be gathering. Share your musical gifts with Holy Covenant and join the choir! Contact Lisa Cloninger at lisacmsw@hotmail.com for more info.

WELCOME SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

We will welcome new members into our church family during worship next Sunday. Please contact Debbie Davis at debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com if you have any questions about joining Holy Covenant UCC. We are indeed blessed by all who choose to journey together in ministry at HCUCC!

FAMILY DINNER AT TIME OUT YOUTH (T.O.Y.), OCTOBER 18

TOY is a place where LGTBQ youth ages 11-20 can experience a sense of belonging & community. Groups provide a home cooked meal monthly for 30-40 people. HCUCC's M&J/LGBTQ coordinator Bob Saylor signed us up for October 18, 5:45pm-7:15pm and has planned a menu. Donations

welcomed. Volunteers are needed to help cook, transport food and serve at the Center. Contact Bob to help! bchs3201@aol.com or 704-239-7342.

SANDWICH MINISTRY, OCTOBER 20 AT HCUCC

Did you know that once a month some of us get together for 30 minutes of sandwich making? This long-standing ministry is a simple and tangible way to help our homeless neighbors. We will meet at 10 am on Saturday, October 20th in Holy Covenant's kitchen. All supplies and delivery to the Urban Ministry Center provided. Contact Julie McLelland at j.mclelland@att.net if you are interested.

SANDWICH MINISTRY SOUTH, OCTOBER 24

We plan to make sandwiches for the homeless on Wednesday, October 24, BUT, only IF we have someone to deliver those sandwiches to the Urban Ministry Center at North College Street. We will gather at 10:00 AM at the Southpark Christian Church. We should be through by 10:30. Drive time round trip to UMC is less than an hour. If someone would step forward it would be greatly appreciated. Our neighbors at the shelter are counting on us. If you can help please contact Linn Finger, linn.finger@att.net or 704-472-5556

HCUCC YOGA4ALL, WEDNESDAYS

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities....Beginners and those who are yoga-curious are encouraged to attend. Join us at 7:30 PM

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

The HCUCC book club reading schedule:

October 17- 1984 by *George Orwell* discussion leader Sue Pascucci

November 14- Varina by *Charles Frazier* discussion leader is Jon Heaslet

We meet at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte. Please join us for thoughtful, lively discussions.

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP - KEEP IT SIMPLE!

To help keep us organized, we are now using an electronic signup for volunteers called **SignUpGenius**. You can use the link below to sign up, and you can still sign up on paper if you prefer. <https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks>

HELP DISASTER RECOVERY WITH CLEAN-UP BUCKETS!

Church World Service (CWS) is planning 500 Clean-Up Buckets - five-gallon buckets filled with a carefully-selected array of supplies to help people begin to restore their home and businesses as they are in process. \$75 buys a single bucket. **Make your check payable to HCUCC with DISASTER RECOVERY in the Memo.** Thank you for your generosity and support of our fellow North Carolinians!

BLOWING ROCK CONFERENCE CENTER INVITES ALL TO CENTURY CLUB CELEBRATION WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 16-18

Celebrate the projects you have supported and we have completed. Learn about our new Century Club project. Your stay is on us as we celebrate our Century Club achievements and plan for the future. Bring a friend to attend the events and their stay is on us, too! Childcare will be available. Visit brccenter.org for more information.

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT 2019, JANUARY 18-21 AT BRCC

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly (Micah 6:8)

Registration and information www.UCCWinterYouthRetreat.org.

Contact Dawn in the church office if you plan to attend.

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

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

Deacons for October: Joe Behr-Stenzel, Debbie Davis

Greeters: Suzanne Lamorey, Aida Marcial

Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Joy Decker, Kevin Decker, Sue Pascucci

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Diane Rogers, Kathi Smith

Refreshments: JoAnn Jellison, Barbara Schneller

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Jill Gregg, Eileen Howe, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Infant girl Averyella, Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Ashley & Baby Evelyn Kate Cregan (Barbara Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), George Jongeling (Darline Warren), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Beckye Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary 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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