



Silent Meditation

*I will always seek God. Some people find God in church.
Some people find God in nature. Some people find God in love;
I find God in suffering.
I've known for some time what my life's work is, using my hands
as tools to relieve suffering.
I find God in the suffering eyes reflected in mine.*

~ Kayla Mueller

*I want to share with you my faith and my understanding that this
suffering can be transformed and redeemed.
There is no such thing as a totally hopeless case.
Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with brokenness,
with all the worst that we can imagine.
God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos,
and God can do so always, can do so now—
in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally.”*

~ Desmond Tutu

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEASON AFTER PENTECOST
SERVICE OF HEALING

June 16, 2019

Prelude

Jon Weddell

“Be Still, My Soul” *arr. Penny Rodriguez*
“Sweet Hour of Prayer” *arr. Lloyd Larson*

Welcome and Announcements ☩

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

*(Please pass the information pads so that all worshippers
might have the opportunity to sign them)*

Opening Voluntary

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”
arr. Charity Book Putnam

Jon Weddell

* Call to Worship

Darline Warren

One: God of life,

Many: **you are as near to us as our breath.**

One: Touch our eyes

Many: **that we may see you;**

One: Open our ears

Many: **that we may hear your voice;**

One: Enter our hearts

Many: **that we may know your love.**

One: Grace our souls and bodies with your presence,

Many: **that we might feel your strength and your healing touch. Come,
God of breath and wholeness, in the name of Jesus Christ.**

* Passing of the Peace

Darline Warren

One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of peace, for it is the
Spirit’s breath which makes us one.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

* *All rise, in body or spirit* ☩ *Sing Response* ☩ *Hymnals located below pews*

1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore you, God of glo-ry, God of love;
Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore you, open-ing to the sun a-bove.
Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the storms of doubt a-way;
Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.

2. All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re-flect your rays,
Stars and an-gels sing a-round you, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.

3. You are giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blessed,
Well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!
Lov-ing Spir-it, Fa-ther, Moth-er, all who love be-long to you;
Teach us how to love each oth-er, by that love our joy re-new.

4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;
Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re-con-cil-ing race and clan.
Ev-er sing-ing, move we for-ward, faith-ful in the midst of strife,
Joy-ful mu-sic leads us on-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

“Tis So Sweet”

Music Cooperative

**Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His Word
Just to rest upon His promise, Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"**

Chorus:

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust Him more!**

**I'm so glad I learned to trust Him, Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend
And I know that He is with me, Will be with me to the end.**

(Chorus)

**Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to trust His cleansing word
And in simple faith to plunge me 'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!**

(Chorus)

**Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, Just from sin and self to cease
Just from Jesus simply taking Life and rest, and joy and peace.**

(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.)

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ... When Elisha, the man of God, heard ... he sent a message to the king, "Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not ... the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean?'" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

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

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

- * Gospel Lesson Mark 1:40-45 Phil Kaveler
 A leper came to Jesus begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But the leper went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.
 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 "Choosing to Touch" Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation Fred Robinson

Offering Music Jon Weddell

- * 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 Fred Robinson

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness Darline Warren

One: Lord our God, we are in need of your healing. Our minds and bodies are afflicted. You said to Israel, "I am your healer," and Israel was restored.

Many: Renew us now, and make us whole in mind and body, heart and soul.

One: O Christ, your earthly ministry touched the lives of people in their entirety. You healed the sick. You raised the dead. We give thanks for all agencies that provide health care. We pray

for social ministry organizations that carry on your healing ministry in our day.

Many: Raise us, dear Jesus Christ, we pray, to life and health, for work and play.

One: Spirit of life, you give us faith and wisdom to trust you and love others. Help us to care for our bodies and minds. We give thanks for people whose calling in life is to assist those in need of healing or health care. Strengthen for service all those who are in the healing arts and sciences.

Many: Encourage those who healing bring, that we, with them your praise, might sing.

One: Triune God, you suffer with all who long for health and wholeness but cannot afford care, and you call for justice. Grant that our society may create a just system of health care so that all your children may rejoice in your healing.

Many: We wait your liberating deed, to signal hope and set us free.

Thanksgiving over Oil

One: Eternal God, you are the Sun of Righteousness who rises with healing in your wings. We thank you for oil, used by prophets and apostles as a sign of your grace and favor. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and on this medicine of mercy that through this anointing your servants may again know the health that comes from you; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Many: Amen.

Special Music

Jon Weddell

*All who desire may come forward to receive anointing and blessing.
Please give your name and special prayer requests if you have any.*

Prayer after Anointing

One: Living God, through this anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Many: Amen.

1. When peace, like a riv-er, up-holds me each day,
when sor-rows like sea bil-lows roll,
What-ev-er my lot, you have taught me to say,
“It is well; it is well with my soul.”

It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul) it is well,
It is well with my soul.

2. Though e-vil should tempt me, though tri-als should come,
let this blessed as-sur-ance con-trol,
That Christ has re-gard-ed my help-less es-tate,
and has paid life and blood for my soul:
(Refrain)

3. My sin- oh the bliss of this glo-ri-ous thought-
my sin- not in part, but the whole-
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
(Refrain)

4. O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trum-pet shall sound and the Lord shall ap-pear,
“e-ven so” - it is well with my soul.
(Refrain)

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response 581

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

☩ 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

“Give Me Jesus”
arr. Michael Hassell

Jon Weddell

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

PLEASE SIGN OUR ATTENDANCE REGISTER

WELCOME to all who worship today at Holy Covenant! Guests and members, please sign an attendance register and then pass it back to its starting point, taking note of who is worshipping near you and greet them.

WELCOME JON WEDDELL

We are delighted to welcome Jon Weddell as he leads us in worship today. A gifted musician and graduate of Davidson College and Princeton Theological Seminary, Jon recently relocated to Charlotte after living in New Jersey for 21 years, where he started the first Housing First permanent supportive housing program in Trenton.

NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

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

9:30 AM June 30 Elders and Deacons Breakfast Ministry Organizational Structure & Opportunities for Involvement

Email JoAnn Jellison at JoAnnJellison@yahoo.com to let her know you plan to attend. Childcare is available if needed.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer at Holy Covenant but don't have a lot of time to spare? The Usher and Greeter teams at Holy Covenant are looking for additional volunteers to support our ministries. All you have to do is arrive for our church service a little early on your assigned Sunday. For information about joining **the usher team**, please contact Barb Schneller at bschneller@wcupa.edu and **the greeter team**, please reach out to Lisa Sherman at jsherman007@carolina.rr.com.

TIME OUT YOUTH FAMILY STYLE MEAL, THURSDAY, JUNE 20

We are serving a family style dinner at the Time Out Youth Center Thursday evening, June 20th. There is a need for donations (food or funds), and for several volunteers for preparations, serving the meal & interaction with youth for about 1-1.5 hrs. Contact Bob Saylor, 704-239-7342 or bchs3201@aol.com. Love Wins...

LET'S GET W.I.S.E. TOGETHER! JUNE 23, 12:30 CONFERENCE ROOM

Join us for an exploratory meeting to consider ways to better support those with mental health issues in our congregation and our community. The UCC has developed a program called **WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged)** that helps congregations identify and take practical steps to address these concerns. We hope to have a diversity of voices as we consider this important ministry need. Contact Meg Houlihan, 704-957-8738 or megmhoulihan@gmail.com for more information. All are welcome to attend these meetings.

PERSONALIZED BRICKS ORDER TO BE PLACED IN JUNE

All friends and family of Holy Covenant UCC are invited to purchase personalized pavers to honor a loved one, commemorate a special date, or offer a memorial gift to the memory of someone important in your life. Bricks will be placed in the walkway leading to our labyrinth and will remind all who spend time here of your connection and support of Holy Covenant. Pick up and order form in the gathering room. We will place an order by the end of June and we request that a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 to Holy Covenant be made with each brick purchase. Net proceeds are used to defray costs of our memorial garden maintenance. Questions? Contact Debbie, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com.

DRIVER NEEDED

Can you assist with delivering food items from a Loaves and Fishes Pantry to someone with mobility issues? We are looking for someone with daytime availability, about once every other month. Delivery will be in the area of Central and Eastway. If you have some free time and willingness to help, please contact Dawn in the office for additional information, office@holycovenantucc.org or 704-599-9810

MIGRANT BUS MINISTRY

The Charlotte Greyhound Migrant Assistance Project has coordinated greeters for the buses in order to provide much needed travel essentials for the Central American Migrants. Fleece throw blankets, juice boxes and water, toiletries and little stuffed animals are in need. A collection box is available in the Gathering Room. Contact Suzanne Lamorey, suzlam@yahoo.com, with questions or to participate in this welcoming.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners will continue discussing *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel. All are welcome as we discuss this fictional family's struggles with raising a transgender child. We are learning so much about transgender issues! Join us at 9:45 in the Conference Room -- no preparation necessary.

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP - KEEP IT SIMPLE!

You can use the link below to sign up, and you can still sign up on paper if you prefer. <https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks2019>

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

Elder for June: Joy Decker, joy@joydecker.com or 704-579-1694

Deacons for June: Ed Vickery, Holly Middleton

Greeters: Donna Collins, Suzanne Lamorey

Ushers: Tom Magraw, Suzanne Lamorey, Barb Schneller

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Alice Phelan, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Julie McLelland, Joe McLelland

Recyclers: Suzanne Lamorey

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail & Danny Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Mamie Stokes

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Ernestine "Tinnie" Chrismon, Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Mary Ruth Edenfield (Donna Collins), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Marilyn Lafferty (Kim Tyler), Bob Lyons (Melissa Noll), Amy Madden (Robert Shepherd), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), David Owens (Donna Collins), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Chris Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Sue Smith, Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), John Teague (Donna Collins), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor pastor@holycovenantucc.org

Rev. Fred Robinson, Associate Pastor fredrick@holycovenantucc.org

Mr. Shea Watts, Director of Music Ministries music@holycovenantucc.org

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant office@holycovenantucc.org

Ms. Kathleen Smith, Accompanist kathleenie53@msn.com

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