



Silent Meditation

We have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of our civilization. There is still a voice crying out ... Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you that you may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven.

This love might well be the salvation of our civilization. This is why I am so impressed with our motto ... 'Freedom and Justice through Love.' Not through violence; not through hate; no, not even through boycotts, but through love.... The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community.

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

We cannot say that in the process of revolution someone liberates someone else, nor yet that someone liberates him or herself, but rather that people in communion liberate each other.

~ Paulo Freire

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 30, 2019

Prelude

Kathleen Smith

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

Kathleen Smith

* Call to Worship

Donna Collins

One: We have come to sing,

Many: **rejoicing in the good that walks this land by day.**

One: We have come to be silent,

Many: **repenting of the evil that stalks it by night.**

One: We have come to this place because here we are reminded

Many: **that you are both our creator and our conscience.**

One: Here all of our loyalties are put in their proper place,

Many: **ordered behind our allegiance to you.**

One: Be with us in our worship

Many: **that our citizenship might become more responsible, our nation
more humble, and our world more steady.**

* Passing of the Peace

Donna Collins

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* φ *Sing Response* ✕ *Hymnals located below pews*

* Hymn 592 “God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command” NATIONAL HYMN

1. God of the ages, who with sure command
 Brought forth in beauty all the starry band
 Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies
 Our grateful songs before your throne arise.

2. Your purpose, just, envisions mortals free;
 God, set our path toward human liberty.
 Still be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay-
 Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

3. From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,
 With stead-fast care be ever our defense;
 Your love and faith within our hearts increase;
 With bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

4. Refresh your people on life’s toilsome way;
 Lead us from night to never-ending day;
 With truth and love guide us through error’s maze,
 And we shall give you glory, laud and praise.

“Free”

by W. Matthews & L. Gungor

**There's a world at war / Caught in suffering
Silent casualties / Oh, God, grant us peace**

**In these sleepless nights / I can hardly breathe
Despite brutality / I know that we'll be free
I know that we'll be free**

***Chorus: Let the light in keep it shinin' / Let it break into the darkness
All the love dares us to see / We'll all be free***

**In these desperate times / Love will hold us here
Love will join our hands / Teach us to have no fear**

**So we lay our hate down / To wash their feet
When we see our brother / When we see our sister
When we see each other / Oh, we'll all be free
Yes, we'll all be free *Chorus (2x)***

**We'll be free, free / We'll all be free (4x)
We are free, free / We'll all be free (2x) *Chorus (2x)***

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

Luke 9:51-62

Shea Watts

When the days drew near for (Jesus) to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to (Jesus), 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom 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.

Report on General Synod 32

Shea Watts

Nancy Ellett Allison

Pastoral Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

Special Music

“Rainbow”

*by Shane L McAnally, Kacey Lee Musgraves & Natalie Hemby
Kathi Smith, Lisa Cloninger, vocals*

When it rain it pours but you didn't even notice
It ain't rainin' anymore, it's hard to breathe when all we know is
The struggle of staying above, the rising water line

Well the sky is finally open, the rain and wind stopped blowin'
But you're stuck out in the same old storm again
You hold tight to your umbrella, darlin' I'm just tryin' to tell ya
That there's always been a rainbow hangin' over your head

If you could see what I see, you'd be blinded by the colours
Yellow, red and orange and green, and at least a million others
So tie up your bow, take off your coat and take a look around

'Cause the sky is finally open, the rain and wind stopped blown'
But you're stuck out in the same old storm again
You hold tight to your umbrella, darlin' I'm just tryin' to tell ya
That there's always been a rainbow hangin' over your head

Oh tie up your bow, take off your coat and take a look around
Everything is alright now

'Cause the sky is finally open, the rain and wind stopped blowin'
But you're stuck out in the same old storm again
Let go of your umbrella, darlin' I'm just tryin' to tell ya
That there's always been a rainbow hangin' over your head
Yeah there's always been a rainbow hangin' over your head
It all be alright

Epistle Reading

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Jeff Edwards-Knight

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.... For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

"Called to Freedom"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Jeff Edwards-Knight

Offering Music

Kathleen Smith

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

☩ **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

Jeff Edwards-Knight

1. This is my song, o God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands a-far and mine.
this is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearst in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine;
both other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

* 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

Kathleen Smith

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

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.

OUR CONSISTORY WILL MEET TODAY at 12:30PM. THERE WILL BE NO JULY MEETING. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ARE SERVING!

MISSIONS & JUSTICE TEAM MEETING, JUNE 30

Friends, following worship, let's gather in the Sojourners classroom and discuss where we've been and those happenings out ahead! All are welcome, so if you are led to help others, please join us! There's always something for everyone!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer at Holy Covenant but don't have a lot of time to spare? No time for meetings? We have the teams for you!

UPPER ROOM MINISTRY AT URBAN MINISTRY CENTER

Holy Covenant is scheduled to provide the bible study, prayer, and time of sharing from **12:00 - 12:30 PM** for our yet to be housed neighbors **during the week of July 8 - 12**. Upper Room Ministry continues to be a spiritual blessing to the Neighbor's at Urban Ministry Center! Contact Phil Kaveler, pwkaveler@yahoo.com if you'd like to participate.

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.

- **Ushers** welcome attendees and hand out bulletins, provide any needed assistance, collect the offering and assist in the orderly distribution of Communion. To learn more contact Barb Schneller at schneller@wcupa.edu.
- **Greeters** welcome members and visitors, ensure our visitors feel comfortable and valued, provide name tags, and obtain contact information. To learn more contact Lisa Sherman at jsherman007@carolina.rr.com.

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.

PERSONALIZED BRICKS - LAST DAY FOR THIS ORDER

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. Order forms are available in the gathering room. A tax-deductible contribution of \$100 to Holy Covenant be made with each brick purchase. Contact Debbie Davis debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com today!

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: Anne Hayes, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: JP Griffin, Kevin Edwards Knight, Tom Magraw, Shakti Subramanian

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Debbie Davis, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Phil Kaveler

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Diane Rogers and family in the death of her father, Leonard Douglass

Danny Bushman & family in the death of Gail 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), 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

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ
3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510
www.holycovenantucc.org ~ 704-599-9810