



Silent Meditation

Christian communities fear difference sufficiently that they usually spend a considerable amount of time tending the margins or boundaries of their communities, not in order to connect with those outside but, rather, to protect themselves from strangers. Sometimes discussions of church membership are more concerned with who is in or out than about how to be an open and welcoming community.

~Letty M. Russell

Welcoming the stranger puts oneself and one's community at risk. At best, the stranger is disruptive, bringing strange ideas and new, even wrong, ways of doing things. At worst, the stranger is dangerous, bringing disease, dishonor or violence. Welcoming the stranger is risky: everyone will be changed, host and guest alike.... And we cannot know ahead of time what the changes will be.

~Amy Oden

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 7, 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

Lisa Sherman, Jim Sherman

One: The world cries to us in its distress. How shall we answer?

Many: We cannot pass by as though nothing is wrong.

One: How then shall we answer?

**Many: We cannot become so focused on ourselves that others mean
nothing to us.**

One: How then shall we answer?

**Many: We shall be the neighbor in service, reconciliation and
compassion wherever we can.**

One: God has shown us the way of faith. Come, let us worship our God.

**All: Come, let us live out our faithfulness to God through our
faithfulness to others. Come, let us love one another.**

* Passing of the Peace

Lisa Sherman, Jim Sherman

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*

1. Let us tal-ents and tongues em-ploy,
reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spo-ken and seen and heard.
Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain,
pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!
Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain,
pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!
2. Christ is a-ble to make us one,
at his ta-ble he set the tone,
teach-ing peo-ple to live to bless,
love in word and in deed ex-press.
Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain,
pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!
Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain,
pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!
3. Je-sus calls us in, sends us out
bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Im-man-u-el) ev-ery-where!
Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain,
pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!
Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain,
pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

“In Feast or Fallow”
Music Cooperative

by Sandra McCracken

When the fields are dry, and the winter is long
Blessed are the meek, the hungry, the poor.
When my soul is downcast, and my voice has no song
For mercy, for comfort, I wait on the Lord.

*Chorus: In the harvest feast or the fallow ground
My certain hope is in Jesus found.
My lot, my cup, my portion sure
Whatever comes, we shall endure;
Whatever comes, we shall endure.*

On a cross of wood, his love was outpoured
Christ rose from the ground, like a bird to the sky
Bringing peace to our violence, and crushing death’s door
Our Maker incarnate, our God who provides. *(Chorus)*

When the earth beneath me crumbles and quakes
Not a sparrow falls, nor a hair from my head
Without Christ’s hand to guide me, my shield and my strength
In joy or in sorrow, in life or in death. *(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.)

Special Music

“Everything Is Sacred”
Music Cooperative

by Pat Barrett

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

* Gospel Reading

Luke 10:25-37

Fred Robinson

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' The lawyer answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' And Jesus said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, the lawyer asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' The lawyer said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

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

"In the Ditch"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Fred Robinson

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

Fred Robinson

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer for Communion

* One: Let us give words to our feelings.

All: Spirit of the universe, our souls are in need of nourishment. Our inadequacies drain our spirit, our frustrations leave us thwarted, the hurts and the pains of our world wound our souls. We need to be fed. With spirit, heart, and soul wide open we come to the table. Nourish us for our sake and for the sake of all whom we touch. Amen.

Words of Institution

Nancy Ellett Allison

Prayer of Consecration

Fred Robinson

(Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

Communion is received by intinction. Please take bread or a gluten free wafer and dip it into the cup to receive both elements.

The Communion elements are bread and grape juice.)

Music for Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(unison)*

Nancy Ellett Allison

We have been fed. Each of our spirits have been united by the bread and the cup. Let us feel the energy of wholeness no matter who we are or what our situation in life might be. We are nourished and we are grateful. Amen

Litany of Departure for Shea Watts

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share this time of farewell with our friend, colleague and music director, Shea Watts.

Shea: I thank Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

ALL: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Shea: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

One: Do you Holy Covenant offer your encouragement for Shea's ministry with Christ Episcopal Church?

ALL: We do, with the help of God.

One: Do you, Shea Watts, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Shea: I do, with the help of God

One: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with others who will come to serve?

Shea: I do, with the help of God.

Prayer of Blessing

ALL: O God, we give thanks for remembered times when we together, have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Shea in worship, in learning, in service. We pray that he will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as he moves to a new place of service. We lift our prayers with gratitude and love. Amen.

Expressing our Gratitude

Nancy Ellett Allison

* 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

Kathleen Smith

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.

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.

CHARLOTTE BLACK PRIDE EXPO, SATURDAY, JULY 20

Holy Covenant UCC will be a participating vendor at this year's Black Pride event, Saturday July 20 from noon to 5 PM. The location is Le Méridien/Marriott Hotel, **555 South McDowell Street** in Uptown Charlotte and its indoors! Volunteers are needed to share information about Holy Covenant. Please contact Bob Saylor, bchs3201@aol.com or 704-239-7342.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY TEAM MEETING JULY 21

The Racial Justice and Equity Team will next meet July 21 in the Conference Room 12:30 after worship. The team is working on exploring ways that we--as a church--can address issues of racial equity, justice and inclusion per the passage of the resolution from the Consistory. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Rev. Fred Robinson, 770-344-8002 or fredrick@holycovenantucc.org.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners will wrap up discussing *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel next Sunday. After that we'll watch some videos from the *Great Courses series* on major world religions. Be thinking of what book you would like to suggest for our next book study. Thanks to all who participate and bring such richness to our class. All are welcome to join us at 9:45 in the Conference Room and no preparation is 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 July: Jeff Edwards Knight, 704-651-4838 or jeff763@aol.com

Deacons for July: JoAnn Jellison, Lisa Sherman

Greeters: Vondalyn McQueen-Simmons, Eileen Howe

Ushers: JP Griffin, Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Laurence Winston

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: JoAnn Jellison

Recyclers: Eileen Howe

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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