



Silent Meditation

The thing to do, it seems to me, is to prepare yourself so you can be a rainbow in somebody else's cloud. Somebody who may not look like you. May not call God the same name you call God — if they call God at all. I may not dance your dances or speak your language. But be a blessing to somebody.

~Maya Angelou

This is the true joy of life, the being used up for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. Life is no "brief candle" to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

~ Flannery O'Connor

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

July 14, 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

Micheal Hall, Dickie Lamm

One: Here, in this place, God welcomes dreamers and doubters,
worriers and wanderers.

Many: **In story and song, in silence and sacrament, we call on God by
name and are reminded that God's relationship with us lasts
forever.**

One: Here, in this time, we can remember the ways God has graced us;

Many: **Here, with these people, we find our true home.**

One: Here, as we worship, we hear those promises made so long ago;

Many: **Of the One who repairs our mistakes and reshapes our
brokenness.**

One: Here, in this place, in this time we welcome our neighbors:

Many: **The righteous and the unrighteous, the immigrant and the
citizen, the conservative and the liberal, the humble and the
arrogant; all are part of our being, all find expression in our
souls.**

One: Here, as we worship, we seek, O Holy One, to embody your love
and your grace

Many: **Here, with these people, we find our true home in You alone.**

* Passing of the Peace

Micheal Hall, Dickie Lamm

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*

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
Shadows of doubt are vanished away:
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, our spirits inflame.
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery,
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human-race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong:
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in the waters,
Here we receive the bread of new birth:
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink, the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you:
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining,
Not in some heaven light-years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is God present, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own,
Gather us in, all peoples together -
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Children's Message

Fred Robinson

(Following the Children's Message, pre-schoolers go to extended care and those in kindergarten through fifth grade to Children's Church.)

God, we thank you for our peo-ple,
roots dug deep with-in the soil,
har-dy spir-its, rich in lov-ing,
strong for strug-gle, bold for toil.
Faith-ful Rock of gen-er-a-tions,
you whom par-ents’ par-ents praised;
Here in hope as we re-mem-ber
may our song to you be raised.

Thank you, God for gen-tle plea-sure;
les-sons learned and se-crets told,
hopes and mem-ories saved as trea-sure,
passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries,
food by lov-ing hands pre-pared.
God, we bless you for your pres-ence
in our tears and laugh-ter shared.

Still we mus con-fess be-fore you,
some-times, Sav-ios, we have failed;
though we wor-ship and a-dore you,
some-times love has not pre-vailed.
Tem-pers rac-ing, dev-il chas-ing,
heart es-tranged by ice or flame
You trans-form by ways for-giv-ing.
Grace a-maz-ing! Grace, your name!

By you Spir-it of cre-a-tion
keep us bold for risk-ing still,
ea-ger in in-ti-ci-pa-tion,
ev-er strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one an-oth-er,
shar-ing life and death and birth,
Wel-com-ing as sis-ter, brother,
all your chil-dren on the earth.

* Gospel Reading Luke 10:25-37

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

“Be Careful What You Ask”

Lloyd Spencer

Offertory Invitation

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offering Music

Kathleen Smith

* 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

Nancy Ellett Allison

The Reception of New Members

Questions of the Candidates

Response of the Congregation

One: Will the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ please rise and join in the mutual promise and welcome?

* Many: **We welcome each of you and celebrate your journey of faith. We promise to search with you for truth in Scripture, word and witness; to walk with you in life's joys and sorrows; to support you when life is shaken; to laugh with you when life lifts your spirit; to share silence, song and sacrament; and to grow in Christian love and mutual appreciation. We will rely on God's sustaining presence as we journey forward together.**

Greeting of Christian Love

Hosts: *On behalf of the entire congregation, it is our pleasure to welcome you as full members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love and welcome.*

Song of Celebration

HALLELUJAH

☩ Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah, Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah;
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

* Benediction

Lloyd Spencer

* 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.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome new members Jon & Linda Heaslet, Tammy Holt, Elle Lusina, Dawn Robinson, Jimmy & Dawn Simmons, and Jason & Aline Sullivan. Thanks to Jim & Faye Humphrey, Kathleen Smith & Lisa Cloninger, Diane Neese, Bob Saylor and JP & Nishi Griffin for guiding our new members.

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.

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.

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 need to share information about Holy Covenant. Please contact Bob Saylor, bchs3201@aol.com or 704-239-7342.

NEXT TIME OUT YOUTH FAMILY STYLE MEAL, SEPTEMBER 19

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

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>

*No matter who you are
or where you are on your journey,
you are welcome here!*

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: Anne Hayes, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Bob Saylor, Jim Hong

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Micki Spear, JoAnn Jellison

Refreshments: Joy Decker

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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)

**“Never put a period
where God has placed a comma.”
~Gracie Allen**



OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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