



## Silent Meditation

The hardest spiritual work in the world is to love the neighbor as the self—to encounter another human being not as someone you can use, change, fix, help, save, enroll, convince or control, but simply as someone who can spring you from the prison of yourself, if you will allow it.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

But all our phrasing—race relations, racial chasm, racial justice, racial profiling, white privilege, even white supremacy—serves to obscure that racism is a visceral experience, that it dislodges brains, blocks airways, rips muscle, extracts organs, cracks bones, breaks teeth.

You must never look away from this.

You must always remember that the sociology, the history, the economics, the graphs, the charts, the regressions all land, with great violence, upon the body.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

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

**August 18, 2019**

Prelude

Kathleen 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

Kathleen Smith

\* Call to Worship

Dawn Robinson

One: We are part of the Church universal - faithful people of every color, gender, class, sexual orientation, age, and ability, gathered to love and serve God. We are an Open and Affirming church. Together, let us worship God, rejoicing in the good news which we celebrate this day.

**Many: There is a place in God's heart, there is a place at Christ's table, there is a place here and in every welcoming church for people of all sexual orientations and identities - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Straight.**

One: Gathered in this sacred space, O Creator Spirit, in the multicolored, multigifted company of Your Church on earth and in heaven, we celebrate Your creation and invite Your presence into our midst.

**Many: There is a place in God's heart, there is a place at Christ's table, there is a place here and in every welcoming church for people of all nationalities, all ethnicities and colors; for people of all abilities, for people of all ranges of mental health concerns and challenges.**

**All: May our hearts be open to Christ's leading in our worship and our living, this day and always!**

\* Passing of the Peace

Dawn Robinson

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*

God of grace and God of glory,  
On your people pour your power;  
Crown your ancient church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us  
And assail the Savior's ways,  
From the fears that long have bound us-  
Free our heart for faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness;  
Bend our pride to your control.  
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Make our broken spirits whole, Make our broken spirits whole.

Set our feet on lofty places;  
Gird our lives that they may be  
Armored with all Christ-like graces,  
in the fight to set us free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
In the quest for liberty, In the quest for liberty.

Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the search for your salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving you whom we adore, Serving you whom we adore.

"Everlasting God"

by Brenton Brown and Ken Riley

**Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
Wait upon the Lord; We will wait upon the Lord**

**Our God, You reign forever; Our hope, our Strong Deliverer  
You are the everlasting God/ The everlasting God  
You do not faint/ You won't grow weary**

**You are the everlasting God; The everlasting God  
You do not faint; You won't grow weary**

**You're the defender of the weak;/ You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles**

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.)*

Hebrew Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 23:23-32

Jim Dwiggin

Am I a God nearby, says the Holy One and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says God. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Living God. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Living One. Is not my word like fire, says God, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? See, therefore, I am against the prophets, says God, who steal my words from one another. See, I am against the prophets, says the Living God, who use their own tongues and say, 'Says the Living God.' See, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, says God, and who tell them, and who lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or appoint them; so they do not profit this people at all, says the Holy One.

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

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

A Word of Witness

German Delegation

Special Music

“Beautiful Things”  
by M. and L. Gungor

Music Cooperative

All this pain, I wonder if I'll ever find my way  
I wonder if my life could really change at all.

All this earth, could all that is lost ever be found  
Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

*Chorus: You make beautiful things,  
You make beautiful things out of the dust;  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us.*

All around, hope is springing up from this old ground  
Out of chaos, life is being found in You. (*Chorus*)

You make me new, You are making me new...

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

\* Gospel Reading

Luke 12: 48-56

Fred Robinson

From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded. 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.' He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

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 "Interpreting the Present Time"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Fred Robinson

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

Fred Robinson

\* Hymn 425

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

AR HYD Y NOS

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For God’s gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.  
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

\* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

\* Benediction Response

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 ever more.

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.

### RACE AND POVERTY IN CHARLOTTE SEPTEMBER 22: POTLUCK & PANEL

Join us for a potluck lunch on September 22 followed by a panel discussion on Race & Poverty in Charlotte. Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler, Associate Professor of Bible and Director of Social Justice and Reconciliation at Union Presbyterian Seminary, will moderate the panel led by local experts.

### OUR SAFETY PLAN & SAFETY TEAM

We now have a church Safety Team! Please note those wearing red "Safety Team" ribbons. The Safety Team will assist and direct you to the nearest exit or shelter-in-place location in the event of an emergency such as fire, gas leak, bomb threat or tornado warning, etc. **Parents:** your children will be escorted out of the building first and taken to the Memorial Garden or the cell tower. You will meet them there. Please talk to any Safety Team member if you have any questions; we don't expect any of these things to happen, but it's better to be prepared.

### SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners continue to discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. Stevenson was a gifted young attorney when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending the poor, the wrongly condemned, and those trapped in the furthest reaches of our criminal justice system. 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.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO PROVIDED BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR DAVID COX ELEMENTARY!**

## **MISSIONS & JUSTICE'S MIGRANT BUS MINISTRY 2.0!**

We are handing out pre-made “goodie bags” for adults and children in the parking lot of the bus station rather than offering tables full of different items inside the station. *Contributions welcomed include:*

White medium-sized unisex socks; stuffed animals (small but huggable size); coloring books & crayons; small bottles of hand sanitizer; canned tuna salad or chicken salad and crackers (AKA “snack on the run”); and pudding snacks. *Clothing donations will take a break for now.*

## **HCUCC/SPCC BOOK CLUB**

Join us for great discussions and fellowship at SouthPark Christian Church at 10:30 am. 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte

September 11 - Woman of Troublesome Creek by Michele Richardson - discussion leader Diane Burleson; October 9 (date may change if author is available to join us)- Reboot by Alan Mulak - discussion leader Jon Heaslet

## **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>

## **UCC LEADERS CALL FOR ACTION TO END GUN VIOLENCE**

On the heels of two mass murders being committed in a little over 13 hours, United Church of Christ leaders issued a call to action, urging churches and people of faith to make gun violence prevention a prominent campaign issue, while offering prayers for victims, their families, and their communities. John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President, spoke out against white supremacist rhetoric, asking everyone to **take action** by urging your U.S. Senators to act immediately on pending gun violence legislation. In the wake of yet another mass shooting, it is easy to feel powerless and difficult to see how one person might make a difference. More on this is included in our weekly e-news.

## **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 August: Kathleen Smith, kathleenis53@msn.com or 704-614-7674

Deacons for August: Cheri Dennis, Jim Hong

Greeters: Donna Collins, Debra Winston

Ushers: Tom Magraw, Chris Edwards, Suzanne Lamorey, Barb Schneller

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Alice Phelan, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Selma Taylor, Mike Taylor

Recyclers: Suzanne Lamorey

**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**

Family and friends of Chris Huckleberry (Robert Shepherd)

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), 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), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jack Ross (Anne Findlay-Chamberlain), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Irene Sharpe (Robert Shepherd), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), John Teague (Donna Collins), Dorothy Underwood (Keith & Cheri Dennis), 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

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

Ms. Kathleen Smith, Accompanistkathleenie53@msn.com

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