



Silent Meditation

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11

We shouldn't seek the ideal community. It is a question of loving those whom God has set beside us today. They are signs of God. We might have chosen different people, people who were more cheerful and intelligent. But these are the ones God has given us, the ones God has chosen for us.

It is with them that we are called to create unity and live a covenant.

We choose our own friends; but in our families, we do not choose our brothers and sisters; they are given to us.

So it is in community life.

~Jean Vanier

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 29, 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

Holly Middleton

One: Out of the fullness of the lives God has given us we have come to worship and to praise.

Many: **We have a pledge to keep with those who have gone before us; we extend God's welcoming love to those who journey with us; we build a covenant with tomorrow for those who will follow.**

One: With thanks we offer to God the warmth of our hearts and the creativity of our minds.

Many: **We respond to God's love by extending blessing to all, by serving the world, and by seeking justice for all of God's creation.**

All: **Out of the fullness of the lives God has given us we have come to worship and to praise!**

* Passing of the Peace

Holly Middleton

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, 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.

“How You Love”

by J. M. McMillan

You are jealous for me
Your love's like a hurricane, I am a tree
Bending beneath the weight of your wind and mercy.
When all of a sudden
I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory
And I realize just how beautiful you are
And how great your affections are for me

Chorus I: And oh how you love us oh
Oh how you love us, how you love us so *(Repeat All)*

Chorus II: You love us, oh how you love us
Oh how you love us, oh how you love!

We are your portion and you are our prize,
Drawn to redemption by the grace in your eyes,
If grace is an ocean, we're all sinking.
And heaven meets earth with the force of a kiss
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest
I don't have time to maintain these regrets
When I think about the way *(Chorus II)*

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.)

Walk with Us

Martha Bomely

Gospel lesson

Luke 16: 19-31

Martha Bomely

'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." '

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

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

Pastoral Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Hymn

“Rising Sun”

by P. Mabury, D. Leonard, K. Lee, & L. Jordan

Lift your hearts, ye broken
Sing oh sing, ye weary
Your love has made us children of God
We lift high Your glory
Shown throughout our stories
We praise You as Your children, oh God

Chorus: Our Great Redeemer, Glorious Savior
Your love is brighter than the rising sun
Light of the morning, You shine forever
Your love is brighter than the rising sun
Your love is brighter than the rising sun

Praise God’s love forever, speak it loud and clear now
This love has made us children of God (*Chorus, Instrumental*)

Hallelujah God above all
Simply to love is the greatest praise
Hallelujah now and always
Forever we lift your name in praise
Hallelujah love will reign
Simply to love is the greatest praise (*Chorus*)

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Jeremiah 32:6-15

Jim Hong

In the tenth year of King Zedekiah's reign a Babylonian army held all of Jerusalem hostage. The king had thrown Jeremiah into prison for prophesying that Babylon would overthrow Jerusalem and King Zedekiah would be carried away as a prisoner, all of which came to pass. During the siege and his imprisonment Jeremiah received this word from God:

The word of the Living God came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.' Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of God, and said to me, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the Living God.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the Living God of Hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the Living God of Hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

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

“A Covenant with Tomorrow”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Jim Hong

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

Jim Hong

* Hymn 373

“They Did Not Build in Vain”

LEONI

1. They did not build in vain who found-ed here a church
as wit-ness to God’s love a-mid a world of pain;
They built up-on the rock that is the ris-en Christ,
the one foun-da-tion laid, that stands each earth-ly shock.

2. Those who have loved this place, a cloud of wit-nes-ses,
sur-round and urge us on as we now run our race;
Though the ho-ri-zon’s bend con-ceals the way a-head,
the foot-prints on the road show Christ waits at the end.

3. In ev-ery place our world is storm and tem-pest tossed,
the flames of fear and hate are e-vil’s flags un-furled;
Yet still the Spir-it’s power in wind and fire of love
pours gifts up-on the church for ser-vice in this hour.

4. Make this the meet-ing place where doubt finds grounds of faith,
where hurt finds heal-ing love, our pen-i-tence your grace;
Where God in Trin-i-ty is bridge from death to life,
from sin to ho-li-ness, time to e-ter-ni-ty.

* 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

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.

DON'T LET THE FLU BUG YOU! OCTOBER 6

Aline Sullivan, BS, PharmD, R.Ph., is making vaccines available to us on October 6, in the conference room, for Flu, Shingles, Tetanus (tdaP) boosters, and Pneumonia. Bring your insurance cards. **Sign up TODAY** in the gathering room. Contact Martha Bomely, martha.bomely@gmail.com or Aline Sullivan, 803-237-8571.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING OCTOBER 6

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC supporting ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US including the Council for American Indian Ministry to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

SACRED CONVERSATION TO END RACISM, OCTOBER 18, 19 & 20

Join us for a two-day anti-racism workshop with Dr. Velda Love, on the historical and present-day impacts of white supremacy. Learn ways to positively impact racial equity in our community and in your everyday life.

Friday, Oct 18 - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Saturday, Oct 19 - 8:30 am - 2:00 pm, including breakfast and lunch

Sunday, Oct 20 - 10:55 am Dr. Velda Love preaches

RSVP to Events@holycovenantucc.org

CROP HUNGER WALK, OCTOBER 20

Give to make a difference in world hunger! All walkers are welcome to join the USA's largest walk in the country on October 20 at 1:30 as part of the hunger-fighting team. We walk 4 miles, rain or shine. 25% of all donations stay in Mecklenburg County and are divided between Loaves & Fishes, Second Harvest Food Bank and Crisis Assistance Ministries. If you are interested in walking, contact Tina Dickens at 704-965-7708 or taichitina@gmail.com. Our walkers will be asking YOU for a donation to help fight hunger. Please give generously!

INTERIM SEARCH TEAM

Consistory appointed an Intentional Interim Pastor Search team of eight members with two each from Budget and Finance, Personnel, Worship and Consistory. The Interim Search team includes Micki Spear, chair, Debbie Davis, Joy Decker, Jeff Edwards-Knight, Jim Hong, Terry Raley-Dennis, Von McQueen-Simmons and Dawn Schmitz.

This team will receive resumes and interview potential candidates to serve as the Intentional Interim Pastor for Holy Covenant. The candidate chosen for this position by Consistory will hopefully begin in January and will NOT be eligible to serve as the settled pastor of Holy Covenant. Contact Micki Spear at southpaw311@gmail.com if you have any recommendations to offer.

NOMINATIONS FOR PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Consistory is seeking nominations for the Pastoral Search Committee. This will be a committee of 5-9 members who will be asked to make a major commitment of time over several months, specifically 12-18 months, as they prayerfully and diligently engage in the process of searching for our new senior pastor. Your Consistory will review all the nominations and create a slate of people who represent the diversity of our congregation and present this slate for a vote at the Congregational Meeting on November 17.

We will place a nomination form in the worship bulletins on Sept. 29, Oct. 6 & Oct. 13. Please indicate your top three choices for people to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee. Be sure that you have checked with your nominees to ascertain they are members of Holy Covenant, have time available for the next year and are willing to serve on this committee, which will require a major time commitment. You may self-nominate.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners continue to discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. 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>

BACKPACK MINISTRY FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

Holy Covenant has committed to help provide specific food items for children of David Cox Elementary School who need our help. Each Friday the children receive a backpack filled with protein, vegetables, soup, starches, fruit, breakfast items, and a snack to take home with them. We are partnering with University City United Methodist Church to provide these food items. Please see the suggested donation items listed on the shopping cart in the gathering area. Please put **ONLY** these items in this cart.

WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:
Elder for September: Suzanne Lamorey, suzlam@yahoo.com or 704-654-7267
Deacons for September: Martha Bomely, Holly Middleton
Greeters: Anne Hayes, Lisa Sherman
Ushers: Tom Magraw, Chris Edwards, Suzanne Lamorey, Barb Schneller
Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger
Tabulators: Alice Phelan, Terry Raley Dennis
Refreshments: South Charlotte Covenant Group
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

The family of Horace Robinson (Fred & Felicia Robinson); The family of Sharon Merritt (Micheal Hall & Dickie Lamm); The family and friends of Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis); The family of Wade Hampton "Hamp" Shuford, Jr. (Robert Shepherd); Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Mary Ruth Edenfield Beatty (Donna Collins), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Scott Gleditsch (Barb Schneller), Alma Gordon (Kevin & Joy Decker), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Faye Grumbles (Linda Clark), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Marilyn Lafferty (Kim Tyler), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Amy Madden (Robert Shepherd), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), Carolyn Marshall (Linda Clark), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jack Ross (Anne Findlay-Chamberlain), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Irene Sharpe (Robert Shepherd), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), 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, Accompanist	kathleenie53@msn.com