



Silent Meditation

Wild hope can always spring from tended strength.
Everything is in that. That and nothing but kindness.
More kindness, dear Lord, of the renewing green.
That is where it all has to start:
with the simplest things.

~ James Dickey

People who hope have complete confidence in God's coming shalom, a rule of order, peace, security, justice, and abundance. ... People who hope are people who act in the conviction that God's future is reliably present-tense and therefore act upon it before it is fully in hand.

~Walter Brueggemann

Life is a God-given opportunity to become who we are,
to affirm our own true spiritual nature,
claim our truth,
appropriate and integrate the reality of our being,
but, most of all,
to say Yes to the One who calls us the Beloved.

~Henri J.M. Nouwen

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

October 13, 2019

Prelude

Jon Weddell

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

“Holy Ground”
Beatty/Davis

Jon Weddell

* Call to Worship

Melissa McQueen-Simmons

One: The complaints of others settle in our mind and cloud our vision,

Many: Open our eyes to Your vision of life, O God.

One: The buzz of the world interrupts our lives and fills our ears,

Many: Open our ears to Your way of life, O God.

One: The cries of the poor, the oppressed and the outcast pierce our hearts,

Many: Open our hearts to Your example of living for others, O God.

One: Fill our hearts, fill our eyes, fill our ears with Your love, O God,

Many: Let us be Your hands and feet in the world, O God. Let us worship You together.

* Passing of the Peace

Melissa McQueen-Simmons

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

1. Guide me, O my great Re-deem-er,
pil-grim through this bar-ren land;
I am weak, but you are might-y;
hold me with your power-ful hand.
Bread of heav-en, bread of heav-en,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

2. O-pen now the crys-tal foun-tain,
where the heal-ing wa-ters flow.
Let the fire and cloud-y pil-lar
lead me all my jour-ney through.
Strong de-liv-erer, strong de-liv-erer,
ev-er be my strength and shield,
ev-er be my strength and shield.

3. When I reach the Riv-er Jor-dan,
bid my anx-ious fears sub-side.
Death of death, and hell’s de-struc-tion,
land me safe on heav-en’s side.
Songs of prais-es, songs of prais-es
I will ev-er sing to you,
I will ev-er sing to you.

“A New Hallelujah”
by Michael W. Smith

**Can you hear, there's a new song
Breaking out from the children of freedom
Every race and every nation
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.**

**Let us sing love to the nations
Bringing hope of the grace that has freed us
Make it known and make it famous
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.**

Chorus: **Arise, let the church arise,
Let Love reach to the other side.
Alive, come alive, let the song arise.**

**Everyone sings a new song
Reaching out with a new Hallelujah
Every son and every daughter
Everyone sing a new Hallelujah. (*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.)

Walk with Us

Holly Middleton

* Gospel lesson

Luke 17:11-19

Holly Middleton

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

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 448

"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

HENDON

Take my life, God let it be
Consecrated faithfully.

Take my moments and my days,
Let the flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move
At the impulse of your love.

Take my intellect and use
All it's powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace
Make of it your dwelling place.

Take my love and help it grow;
Let my loving overflow.

Take me now and help me be
Part of Christ's community.

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Jeremiah 29:1, 4-9 Jeff Edwards-Knight

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem...

It said: Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Living God of Hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Living God....

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

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 Future with Hope" Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation Jeff Edwards-Knight

Offering Music "I Worship You, Almighty God" Jon Weddell

* 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. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

2. Here I pause in my sojourning;
giving thanks for having come;
come to trust at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
came to rescue me from danger,
blessed body, precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

* 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

Jon Weddell

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.

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: events@holycovenantucc.org

WILL YOU WALK WITH US ON THE WAY?

"I am the Way" comes from John 14:6, referencing the commitment we make to walk in the ways of Jesus. Generosity is one way of living out our journey and our calling to follow Jesus. Your support in this Stewardship Campaign will transform our future and our ability to be the people of God. Walk with us into a new future by sharing with us your financial commitment. We are grateful for all who have generously contributed to the stewardship campaign. The general fund pace is currently at 38% and the Building (capital) fund is currently 49%. If you haven't pledged, please do so soon to help in the budget planning process for 2020, but no later than October 27.

You may email your pledge to office@holycovenantucc.org, put it in the collection plate, or submit your pledge online through the church website at holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online/.

ATTENTION SINGERS! ADVENT REHEARSALS STARTING OCTOBER 20

Bridget Green is excited to be working with you again this Advent Season! Rehearsals begin Sun., Oct 20 from 12:30-2 and each Sunday into December (with the exception of 11/17). There will be 2 Saturday rehearsals; the first on October 16, 1-4 pm. Please take a moment to show your interest and fill out this season's Google survey. <https://tinyurl.com/HCAnt2019>.

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 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. Consistory will create a slate of people who represent the diversity of our congregation and present this slate for a vote at the Congregational Meeting in November. Be thinking of who you would like to serve on this committee and check with them first to ascertain that they have the time and would be willing to faithfully serve on this important body. You may self-nominate. Deadline for nominations is TODAY.

Please indicate below your top three choices for people to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES, OCTOBER 27

Classes for those wishing to become members of Holy Covenant UCC or wanting to learn about HCUCC or the United Church of Christ as a denomination are being scheduled for this fall. Please contact JoAnn Jellison, joannjellison@yahoo.com if interested.

HCUCC LABYRINTH WALK, OCTOBER 27

Walk Holy Covenant's beautiful labyrinth Sunday, Oct. 27, 12:45 p.m., accompanied by harp music and Veriditas-trained labyrinth facilitator...

Janet Hince. Space is limited. For more details and to reserve a spot, communicate with Kristin Andes, Kjandes@aol.com.

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY, NOVEMBER 2, 9 AM

We need to spiff up the church for Advent and the holidays! An all-church workday will include washing windows in the sanctuary and gathering room, carpet cleaning, and outdoor landscape clean up, just to name a few. The coffee will be on. Some kind soul may bring munchies, too. Working together is one of the best kinds of fellowship. Plan to roll up your sleeves with us.

WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:

Elder for October: Robert Shepherd, rshepvided@att.net or 704-618-1322

Deacons for October: Lisa Sherman, Ed Vickery

Greeters: Suzanne Lamorey, Debbie Winston

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

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Micki Spear, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Debbie Davis, Barb Schneller

Recyclers: Eileen Howe

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Mike Yonkovig and Dana Endsley in the death of his father, Michael M.

“Mickey” Yonkovig (Robert Shepherd)

Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Debra & Yvette Ross, Mamie Stokes

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Mary Ruth Edenfield Beatty (Donna Collins), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), USMC Jesus K Estevez (Donna Collins), 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

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