



Silent Meditation

What can be known about God is perfectly plain,
since God has made it plain.
Ever since God created the world,
God's everlasting power and divinity,
however invisible,
has been there for the mind to see in the things that God has made.
~Paul in Romans 1

**The whole universe in its wholeness more perfectly shares
in and represents the divine goodness than any one
creature by itself.**

~Thomas Aquinas

*Our work is more than work. It is enchantment.
A divine act of creation and re-creation, which is also recreation.
It is compassion on the loose.*

~Matthew Fox

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEASON OF CREATION HUMANITY SUNDAY

September 9, 2018

Gathering Music

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

Dickie Lamm

One: Peoples from every corner of creation,

Many: Celebrate with all creatures on Earth!

One: Young and old across the planet,

Many: Rejoice in the day that God has made!

One: Native people of every land,

Many: Help us sense the spirit deep in each land!

One: People of every color, in every place,

Many: Celebrate with us the diversity of creation!

One: All humanity on Planet Earth,

Many: Praise God for our planet home.

One: Sing, peoples, sing!

All: Sing, creation, sing!

* Passing of the Peace

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 ☪ Sing Response ☩ Hymnals located below pews

* Hymn

“’Tis the Gift to Be Simple”

Traditional/Shaker

’Tis the gift to be simple, ’tis the gift to be free
’tis the gift to come down where you ought to be
And when we find ourselves in the place just right
’Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan’t be ashamed
To turn, turn will be our delight
’Till by turning, turning we come round right.

’Tis the gift to be simple, ’tis the gift to be free
’tis the gift to come down where you ought to be
And when we find ourselves in the place just right
’Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

“The Earth Is the Lord’s”
by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

ST. DENIO

The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.
Creation reminds us, O God, of your love.
By grace we are learning, as year leads to year,
We’re called to be stewards, your caretakers here.

Your rainforests nurture the world that we share.
Your wetlands give animals shelter and care.
Your coral reefs cradle the life of the sea.
You’ve shown us, in love, what your good world can be.

Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth.
We fail to remember its beauty and worth.
We take from creation much more than we need,
We threaten your world through indifference and greed.

May we be good stewards of all that you give,
Protecting creation wherever we live.
May we be a church that renews and restores
And lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.

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.)

Psalm 8

A Psalm of David

O Living God, our Salvation,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
You have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O Living God, our Salvation,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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

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

Special Music

“He Looked Beyond My Fault” lyrics by D. Rambo
Micheal Hall, vocalist, Kathi Smith, pianist

Amazing grace shall always be my song of praise
For it was grace that bought my liberty
I do not know just why he came to love me so
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

Refrain: I shall for ever lift mine eyes to Calvary
To view the cross where Jesus died for me;
How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

If not for grace my soul would be a drifting ship
No safe harbor from the angry waves
But Calvary’s cross shines brightly through the darkest storms
And just in time his mercy rescues me. (*Refrain*)

One: Loving God, we remember that Jesus taught us to pray saying, "Our Father..."

Many: You created us, you made this world, and you called your creation very good. Yet often we forget that you are our loving Parent who continues to bless your world.

One: Jesus told us that you are "...in heaven..."

Many: Yet we fail to live in awe of you. We take you for granted, and we don't see the awesome beauty of the world you have made.

One: We pray, "Hallowed be your name..."

Many: We confess that our reverence for you does not always lead us to care reverently for your earth, sky and sea.

One: We pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."

Many: We confess that we often put our own interests first-exploiting your creation, and living for our own convenience and self-interest.

One: We pray, "Give us today our daily bread."

Many: We confess that we consume more than our share of the world's resources, while billions go hungry every day and your whole creation suffers.

One: We pray, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

Many: We confess that we see these words only in spiritual terms, while the Bible is filled with teachings about economic justice and creation care.

One: We pray, "Save us from the time of trial."

Many: Help us to resist the temptations of spending more, using more, acquiring more, and wasting more.

One: We pray, "Deliver us from evil..."

Many: Free us from greed and self-centeredness that separate us from you and others.

One: We pray, "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever."

Many: Help us to know that in caring for your wonderful world, we are working for your kingdom, being good stewards of your creative power, and giving you glory.

One: We pray, "Amen."

All: We end our prayers with "Amen," a word that means "let it be so." We know we can be faithful disciples by your grace. Amen!

* Gospel

Mark 10:35-45

Debbie Davis

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking.....

When the [other disciples] heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

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

"Dignity and Dominion"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Debbie Davis

Offering Music

"Blue Green Hills of Earth"
by Kim Oler, arr. David Hoss

For the earth forever turning, For the land, for skies and seas,
For our lives, for all we cherish, Sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the mountains, hills and pastures, In their silent majesty
For the stars, for all the heavens, Sing we our joyful praise of peace.

For the sun, for rain and thunder, For the seasons' harmony,
For our lives, for all creation, Sing we our joyful praise to Thee.

For the world we raise our voices, For the home that gives us birth,
To our Source we sing returning, Home to the blue-green hills of earth.

* Offering Response 55

MARION

φ Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God forevermore
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

* Offertory Dedication

Debbie Davis

* Hymn 556 “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” HOLLY MANNA

1. God, who stretched the span-gled heav-ens in-fi-nite in time and
 place,
 Flung the suns in burn-ing ra-diance through the si-lent fields of
 space;
 We, your chil-dren, in your like-ness, share in-ven-tive powers with
 you;
 Great Cre-a-tor, still cre-a-ting, show us what we yet may do.

2. We have ven-tured worlds un-dreamed of since the child-hood of our
 race;
 Known the ec-sta-sy of wing-ing through un-trav-eled realms of
 space;
 Probed the se-crets of the at-om, yield-ing un-i-mag-ined power,
 Fac-ing us with life’s de-struc-tion or our most tri-um-phant hour.

3. As each far hor-i-zon beck-ons, may it chal-lenge us a-new,
 Chil-dren of cre-a-tive pur-pose, serv-ing oth-ers, hon-oring you.
 May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise, each en-deav-or, well
 be-gun;
 Great Cre-a-tor, give us guid-ance till our goals and yours are one.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response 581

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

φ **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

WELCOME TO HOLY COVENANT

We welcome all who worship with us at Holy Covenant. Guests and members, we invite you to sign our friendship pads so that we may have a record of your worshipping with us and be in touch with you during the week. Members, please indicate any changes in your contact information. We invite our visitors and members to linger following worship and join us in light refreshments and conversation.

HOLY COVENANT MINISTRY TEAM FAIR, TODAY!

Friends - Snacks - Door Prizes! **Join us** following worship to learn about HCUCC's Ministries and how you can be a part! Your engagement in the life of HC is what keeps us moving forward. Have fun learning about ways to be serve God through Holy Covenant.

NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

If you would like to learn more about our congregation or become a member at Holy Covenant, please join our Inquirer's Classes!

September 16 9:30 am Who We Are and What We Believe

September 23 9:30 am History of UCC & Holy Covenant

September 30 12:30 pm Consistory-Led Luncheon on Ministry Teams Organization & Opportunities for Involvement

October 14 WELCOME SUNDAY welcoming new members into membership at Holy Covenant. Please contact Debbie Davis, Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com with questions or to let her know you plan to attend. Childcare is available if needed.

FOUND - Hearing Aid on 9/4/18; Call the office to claim 704-599-9810

MINISTRY DURING OUR INTERIM: THANK YOU TO KATHLEEN SMITH

Kathi Smith has been a member of Holy Covenant since 2002 and throughout her membership has been engaged in our music ministries. We are grateful to Kathi for leading us in worship today as we begin this interim time together.

ADVENT WORSHIP BRAINSTORMING AND PLANNING MEETING!

Wednesday, Sept. 19 from 6:30-7:30 pm at HCUCC

All are welcome to help us plan a meaningful music and worship during Advent

YOGA4ALL AT HCUCC RESUMES SEPTEMBER 12, 7:30PM

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

September 12; Pachinko by *Min Jin Lee* discussion leader Barbara Schneller. **October 17; 1984 by George Orwell** discussion leader Sue Pascucci. November 14; Varina by *Charles Frazier* discussion leader is Jon Heaslet. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte.

MISSIONS & JUSTICE NOTES

With the beginning of a new school year we need to lift up our efforts for the **backpack ministry and the food pantry** for the UNCC students. Many young people are reliant on our efforts. Collection bins are in the Gathering Room year round for our food ministries.

The Backpack Ministry supports children at David Cox Elementary School and Morehead Academy. **UNCC pantry supports college students.** **The Sandwich Ministry** for the south side (benefits neighbors though Urban Ministry Center) needs someone to deliver the sandwiches once they're assembled. If you're interested in helping please contact **Barb Schneller**, bschneller@wcupa.edu.

CROP HUNGER WALK, OCTOBER 13

The 40th annual **Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk** will be held on October 13 at 9:00 a.m. starting at Independence Park. This year, Holy Covenant UCC is a named sponsor due to your generous honorarium of +Barbara Thomas! If you are interested in participating or have questions, call Tina Dickens at 704.965.7708 or taichitina@gmail.com. 25% of all donations will stay in Charlotte to be given to Loaves and Fishes, Second Harvest and Crisis Assistance Ministries.

WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:
Elder for September: Jeff Edwards-Knight, jeff763@aol.com or 704-651-4838
Deacons for September: Lisa Sherman, Gregg Walker
Greeters: Suzanne Lamorey, Lisa Sherman, Anne Hayes
Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Joy Decker, Kevin Decker, Sue Pascucci
Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Keith Dennis
Tabulators: Diane Rogers, Alice Phelan
Refreshments: Hospitality, Debbie Davis, Suzanne Lamorey
Recycler: Diane Rogers

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Friends & Family in the death of the Rev. Susan Bennett Stiles
Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Friends & family of Michael Edward Taylor (Lisa Cloninger & Kathi Smith)
Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Ashley & Baby Evelyn Kate Cregan (Barbara Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Caroline Herdle (Beth Sharp), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren), Sue Ann Kominski (Dawn Simmons), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Anne Sherrill (Donna Collins), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Beckye Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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