



Silent Meditation

We are all learning what it's like to reap the whirlwind of fossil fuel dependence... Our destructive addiction [to oil] has given us a catastrophic war in the Middle East and -- now -- Katrina is giving our nation a glimpse of the climate chaos we are bequeathing our children.

~ Robert Kennedy, Jr. 2005

Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of this, thousands of species will never give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.

~ Pope Francis

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEASON OF CREATION ~ STORM SUNDAY

September 16, 2018

Gathering Music

David A. 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

David A. Smith

* Call to Worship

Psalm 29 (*The Message*)

Ed Vickery

One: Bravo, God, bravo!

Many: Gods and all angels shout, "Encore!"

One: In awe before the glory, in awe before God's visible power.
Stand at attention! Dress your best to honor the Living One!

**Many: God thunders across the waters, Brilliant, God's voice and
face, streaming brightness— God, across the flood waters.**

One: God's thunder tympanic, God's thunder symphonic. God's
thunder smashes cedars, God topples the northern cedars.

**Many: The mountain ranges skip like spring colts, the high ridges
jump like wild kid goats.**

One: God's thunder spits fire. God thunders, the wilderness quakes;
God makes the desert of Kadesh shake.

**Many: God's thunder sets the oak trees dancing a wild dance,
whirling; the pelting rain strips their branches. We fall to our
knees—we call out, "Glory!"**

One: Above the floodwaters is God's throne from which all power
flows, from which God rules the world.

Many: God makes the people strong. God gives all people peace.

* All rise in body or spirit ☉ Sing Response ✕ Hymnals located below pews

*** Passing of the Peace**

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!

*** Hymn** **“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing”** **LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

**To you, O God, all creatures sing; Let all the vaults of heav'n now ring.
Sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**Thou burning sun with golden beam; Thou silver moon with softer gleam.
Sing your praises, sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong; Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along.
Sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**Thou rising morn in praise rejoice; Ye lights of evening find a voice.
Sing your praises, sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**O crystal waters flowing clear; Make music for thy Lord to hear.
Sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**Let all things their creator bless And worship God in humbleness.
Sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise Creator God and Son; And praise the Spirit three in one.
Sing your praises, sing your praises, Alleluia!**

“The Earth Is Yours”
by M. Gungor

**Your voice it thunders, the oaks start twisting
The forest sounds with cedars breaking
The waters see you, and start their writhing
From the depths a song is rising
Now it’s rising from the ground.**

*Chorus: Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord, the earth is yours and we sing
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord, the earth is yours, the earth is yours.*

**Your voice it thunders, the ground is shaking
The mighty mountains now are trembling
Creation sees you and starts composing.
The fields and trees they start rejoicing**

**Now it’s rising from the ground, now it’s rising
from the ground. Hear us crying out, hear us crying out...**

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 Job 28:20-28

Phil Kaveler

Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding? It is hidden from the eyes of all living, and concealed from the birds of the air. Abaddon and Death say, ‘We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.’ “God understands the way to it, and knows its place. For God looks to the ends of the earth, and sees everything under the heavens. When God gave to the wind its weight, and apportioned out the waters by measure; when God made a decree for the rain, and a way for the thunderbolt; then God saw it and declared it; God established it, and searched it out. And God said to humankind, ‘Truly, the fear of the Living God, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.’”

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

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

In my wrestling and in my doubts,
in my failures, you won't walk out.
Your great love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence you won't let go,
in the questions your truth will hold.
Your great love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

Refrain:

My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse,
Shining in the darkness, I will follow you.
My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse,
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore...

I won't fear what tomorrow brings,
With each morning I'll rise and sing.
My God's love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea. *Refrain*

Bridge:

Fire before us, you're the brightest,
You will lead us through the storms. *Refrain*

Prayers of the People

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

* Gospel Lesson Luke 8:22-25 Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. Jesus said to them, “Where is your faith?” They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?”

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

“The Aye of More Storms”*
(*Thank you, Kevin Siers!)

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

Offering Music

David A. Smith

* 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

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

* Hymn

“Oceans”

by M. Crocker, J. Houston, S. Lighthelm

You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep, my faith will stand

Chorus: And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine

Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now (*Chorus*)

Bridge (3x): Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior (*to Chorus after 3rd time*)

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response 391

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 evermore.

Postlude

David A. 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.

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 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. Please contact Debbie Davis, Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com with questions or to let her know you plan to attend. Childcare is available.

MUSIC DURING OUR INTERIM:

THANK YOU TO JUDAH JONES & DAVID SMITH

Judah is an Elder in the United Methodist Church and served as our Minister of Music for several years. She returned in 2013 as our interim and has long been a valued participant in our music ministry. David Smith has been a member of Holy Covenant since 1994 and throughout his membership has been engaged in our music ministries. We are grateful to Judah, David and the Music Cooperative for leading us in worship today in this interim time.

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, WEDNESDAYS at 7:30 PM

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities...Beginners and those who are yoga-curious are encouraged to attend. Questions? Contact David, 704-533-2142 davidsmith02b@gmail.com.

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

October 17; 1984 by *George Orwell* discussion leader Sue Pascucci.
November 14; Varina by *Charles Frazier* discussion leader is Jon Heaslet.
We meet at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive.

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** benefits neighbors through Urban Ministry Center. Our south side build team 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.

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT 2019, JANUARY 18-21 AT BRCC

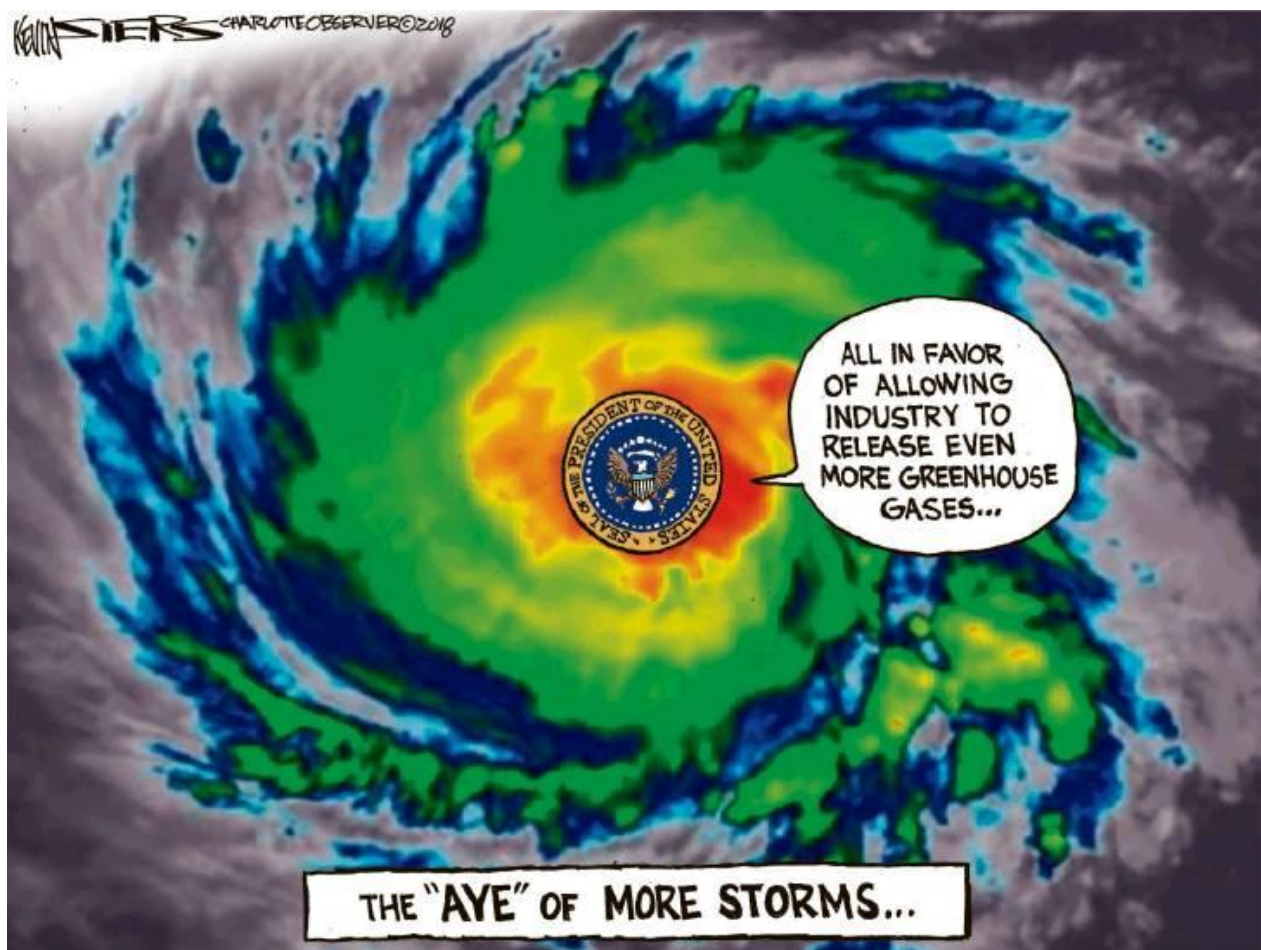
Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly (Micah 6:8)

Registration and information www.UCCWinterYouthRetreat.org.

Contact Dawn in the church office if you plan to attend.

BETTER ANGELS - LET'S DEPOLARIZE AMERICA

Better Angels is a grass roots movement of volunteers aiming to take the rancor and hatred out of political discussions in America. Conservatives and Progressives view community life with different core values, so their views about political issues will remain quite different. Better Angels has a motto, "Make America Relate Again." Free workshops offered in the Charlotte area. Consider joining for \$10 a year for email articles, podcasts, and video conference meetings with national public leaders, all from your own home. For conversation about this, write me at rcmid70@gmail.com and we will set up a visit. ~Rich Midkiff
www.better-angels.org/



Shared from the 2018-09-12 Charlotte Observer eEdition

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 September: Jeff Edwards-Knight, jeff763@aol.com or 704-651-4838
Deacons for September: Lisa Sherman, Gregg Walker
Greeters: Anne Hayes, Lisa Sherman
Ushers: Tom Magraw, Suzanne Lamorey, Barbara Schneller
Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger
Tabulators: Joy Decker, JoAnn Jellison
Refreshments: Joe Behr-Stenzel
Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

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,
Eileen Howe, 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), Alice Huskins (Jared
Fischer), George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren), 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), Elizabeth Wilson (Donna
Collins)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor
Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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