



(Artwork by Sydney Brown)

Silent Meditation

'In wildness is the preservation of the World'.

~Henry David Thoreau

“Forty years ago ‘environment’ simply meant ‘surroundings’. What a distance we have travelled. Humanity has never before faced such a threat: the collapse of the very elements that keep us alive.”

~ *David Suzuki*

“There is only one non-negotiable, and that is we have only one world - this one - and it is here and nowhere else that we will find God. If we destroy the world, we destroy not only ourselves but the most important symbol of God that we have....The beauty of nature and the wilderness has become vitally important for the spirituality of many people. It is increasingly in the cathedral of the environment that our contemporaries are rediscovering a way into the realm of the transcendent; they are discovering the sacred presence that stands behind the natural world.”

~ *Paul Collins*

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEASON OF CREATION ~ WILDERNESS SUNDAY**

September 30, 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**

One: We celebrate the wilderness God created,

Many: **The wild places on Earth, the worlds of wonder and mystery,
the spirit of the wilderness.**

One: We remember the wild worlds and the hiding places of our
childhood,

Many: **Places where we played, where we felt the mystery of caves,
fantasy, and strange creatures.**

One: We invite the flora to shine in the sun:

Many: **Cactus and tumbleweed, brush and bristle.**

One: We join with the fauna of the wilderness in praising God:

Many: **Blackbirds and Gila monsters, rattlesnakes, wolves and
hovering hawks.**

One: We invite the spirits of the wilderness to join us in praise:

Many: **As morning breaks again, we open our ears, our hearts and
our minds to following God in sustaining the wilderness, this
world God has filled with wonder.**

*** 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!**

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

* Hymn

“Morning Has Broken”

BUNESSAN

Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for the springing fresh from the word

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall, on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

1. Wa-kan-tan-ka ta-ku ni-ta-wa
tan-ka-ya qa o-ta;
Ma-hpi-ya kin e-ya-hna-ke ca,
ma-ka kin he du-o-wan-ca,
Mni-o-wan-ca sbe-ya wan-ke cin,
he-na o-ya-ki-hi.
2. Wo-eh-da-ku ni-ta-wa kin he
mi-na-gi kin qu wo;
Ma-hpi-ya kin i-wan-kam ya-ti,
wi-co-wa-shte yu-ha nan-ka,
Wi-co-ni kin he ma-ya-qu nun,
o-wi-han-ke wa-nin.
1. Man-y and great, O God, are your works,
Mak-er of earth and sky;
Your hands have set the heav-ens with stars,
your fin-gers spread the moun-tains and plains.
Lo, at your word the wa-ters were formed;
deep seas o-bey your voice.
2. Grant un-to us com-mu-nion with you,
O star a-bid-ing One;
Come un-to us and dwell with us:
with you are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
e-ter-nal life with you.

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.)

Stewardship Moment

Lisa Cloninger

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 4:1-11

Lisa Cloninger

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." '

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." ' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." '

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." ' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on 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.

Special Music

“Now and at the Hour”
Shea Watts, vocals and guitar

by David Gungor

Oh Spirit of God
Speak Your peace, speak your peace
Oh Spirit of God
Speak Your peace, speak your peace

Now and at the hour of our death
Amen, amen
Now and at the hour of our death
Amen

Oh merciful God/ Forgive us, forgive us
Oh merciful God/ Forgive us, forgive us

For all the things we have done and left undone
For all the things we have done and left undone

Oh Son of God/ Rescue us, rescue us
Oh Son of God/ Rescue us, rescue us

Now and at the hour of our death
Amen, amen
Now and at the hour of our death
Amen

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

Hebrew Scripture

Joel 1:13-20

Tom Magraw

Put on sackcloth and lament, you priests; wail, you ministers of the altar. Come, pass the night in sackcloth, you ministers of my God! Grain-offering and drink-offering are withheld from the house of your God. Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Living One your God, and cry out to God. Alas for the day! For the day of the Living God is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes. Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God? The seed shrivels under the clods, the storehouses are desolate; the granaries are ruined because the grain has failed. How the animals groan! The herds of cattle wander about because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep are dazed.

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

“Heavenism?”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Tom Magraw

Offering Music

Kathleen Smith

* Offering Response 55

MARION

☩ **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

Tom Magraw

* Hymn 557

“Pray For the Wilderness”
(stanzas 1, 3-5)

TOULON

**1. Pray for the wil-der-ness, van-ish-ing fast,
pray for the rain forest, open and vast;
Pray for the waterfalls, pray for the trees,
pray for the planet brought down by degrees.**

**3. Work for the justice created things need,
work for the health of each plant and its seed;
Work for the creatures abuse has betrayed,
work for the garden God’s wisdom once made.**

**4. Trust that God’s Christ over-came nails and wood,
trust that earth’s people will turn to the good;
Trust that creation forever will grow,
trust that God’s goodness to us overflows.**

**5. Pray for the atmosphere, pray for the sea,
learn from the river, the rock, and the tree;
Work till shalom in full harmony rings.
Trust the connection of all living things.**

* 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

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.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, OCTOBER 14

Today, the Personnel and Search Team will recommend a candidate for our part time Associate Pastor position to the Consistory. If Consistory approves the candidate, we will provide information and invite members to meet our candidate on October 7. Our next step in the process is for the congregation to vote on receiving the candidate at a Called Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on October 14.

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.

HELP FLORENCE RECOVERY WITH CLEAN-UP BUCKETS!

Florence left quite a trail when she visited our region, and our friends and fellow North Carolinians need our help! The Southern Conference is inviting churches to prepare 500 Church World Service (CWS) Clean-Up Buckets - five-gallon buckets filled with carefully-selected array of supplies to help people begin to restore their home and businesses. \$75 buys a single bucket. Make a gift of your choice and we'll pool funds to buy as many buckets as we can! **Make your check payable to HCUCC with FLORENCE RECOVERY in the Memo or drop your cash into the bucket in the Gathering Room.**

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! Childcare is provided.

October 7 9:30 am Ministry Teams & Opportunities for Involvement

October 14 WELCOME SUNDAY welcoming new members into membership. Please contact Debbie Davis, Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com with questions.

BRING A PICTURE OF YOUR PET FOR OCTOBER 7 WORSHIP

October 7 is Saint Francis Sunday so we will celebrate all creatures in worship! Bring a picture of your pet so we can experience the joy of their presence without a cat and dog fight actually occurring!

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.

MISSIONS & JUSTICE NOTES - YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

If you bought extra bottled water, canned goods or peanut butter please consider donating those to Loaves and Fishes which supplies many storm refugees. **The Food Pantry** for the UNCC students is also accepting donations. 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. **The Sandwich Ministry** benefits neighbors though 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.

CALLING ALL HCUCC ARTISTS/CRAFTERS/BAKERS

HCUCC's Annual Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for the weekend of November 10-11. Setup is on Saturday, with a reception and early sale event that evening. The bazaar will continue Sunday morning before and after the church service. Contact Kim Tyler yhr762@yahoo.com or Kay Smith happyartbykay@gmail.com if you plan to participate.

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@ymail.com and we will set up a visit. ~Rich Midkiff
www.better-angels.org/

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

Ushers: JP Griffin, Kevin Edwards Knight, Shakti Subramanian

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Debbie Davis, Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Martha Bomely

Recyclers: Eileen Howe, Phil Kaveler

WELCOME MARGARET JACK LYNN SMITH

Proud grandparents, David & Kay Smith, announce the birth of their granddaughter, Maggie, who was born September 26. She joins big brother, Adrian. Parents Joshua and Alexandria Smith are doing fine.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Kelly Gimlin, Renee & Sydney Brown in the death of Kelly's mother, Mollie Anne Richardson, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Jill Gregg, Eileen Howe, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Infant girl Averyella, Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Ashley & Baby Evelyn Kate Cregan (Barbara Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), George Jongeling (Darline Warren), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Beckye Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

*No matter who you are
or where you are on your journey,
you are welcome here!*

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

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