



Silent Meditation

We human beings are most fully alive when we love what God loves. And God loves the entire creation.

~ Jake Owensby

The dominion here mandated is with reference to the animals. The dominance is that of a shepherd who cares for, tends, and feeds the animals... the task of "dominion" does not have to do with exploitation and abuse. It has to do with securing the well-being of every other creature and bringing the promise of each to full fruition.... The role of the human person is to see to it that the creation becomes fully the creation willed by God.

~ Walter Brueggemann

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEASON OF CREATION ~ ST. FRANCIS SUNDAY

October 7, 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

William Judd

One: O Divine Voice,

Many: You sing and the universe comes into being;

One: O Divine Breath,

Many: You breathe and all things spring to life;

One: O Divine Word,

Many: You call and creation is sustained;

One: O Divine Flesh,

**Many: You are born among us, and the Creator is clothed in
creation;**

One: O Divine Spirit,

Many: You contain all that has been formed;

One: O Divine Life,

Many: You are the pulse of all that is;

One: In faith and expectation, in wonder and celebration we gather
to remember this mystery:

**All: In you all things live and move and have being, in all things,
you live and move and express your Divine artistry; so we join
with creation in eternal songs of worship and devotion.**

* Passing of the Peace

William Judd

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. To you, O God, all crea-tures sing,
and all cre-a-ation, ev-ery-thing
sings your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!
Your burn-ing sun with fold-en beam,
your sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam
signs your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.
2. Your wind that blow the tem-pest by,
your clouds that sail a-cross the sky
sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!
Your morn-ing ris-es with a song,
and lights of eve-ning sing a-long,
sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.
3. Your flow-ing wa-ters, crys-tal clear,
make mel-o-dies for you to hear,
sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!
Your fire, boun-ti-ful and bright,
re-mem-bering your warmth and light,
sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.
4. To you, O God, day af-ter day,
your plan-et earth in ev-ery way,
sings your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,
As sa-vory fruit and fra-grant flower
show forth your glo-ry and your power,
sing-ing prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

God of the spar-row
God of the whale
God of the swirl-ing stars
How does the crea-ture say Awe
How does the crea-ture say Praise

God of the earth-quake
God of the storm
God of the trum-pet blast
How does the crea-ture cry Woe
How does the crea-ture cry Save

God of the neigh-bor
God of the foe
God of the prun-ing hook
How does the crea-ture say Love
How does the crea-ture say Peace

God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

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.)

A Word of Witness

Fred Robinson

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:25-33

Fred Robinson

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these...Strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as 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.**

For the beau-ty of the earth,
for the splen-dor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
o-ver and a-round us lies,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

For the won-der of each hour
of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and start of light,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

For the joy of hu-man love,
broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove,
for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

For the good that love in-spires,
for a world where none ex-clude,
For a faith that nev-er tires,
and for ev-ery heart re-newed,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

Stewardship Witness

Cheri & Keith Dennis

Hebrew Wisdom

Psalm 104

Jim Hong

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty...You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst. By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens. People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening. O Living God, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. May the glory of God endure forever; may God rejoice in all!

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

“Loving God’s Creatures”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Jim Hong

Offering Music

Kathleen 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

Jim Hong

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,

Many: God's glory covers the earth as the waters over the sea.

One: The trees of the field clap their hands; the birds of the air sing songs of praise.

Many: If we should fail to express our worship, even the rocks and stones would cry out! We lift up our hearts, and we lift up our voices,

One: We offer thanksgiving and adoration to the Living Creator of all.

Many: Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, for from seeds sown into the earth you have given us the gift of bread to feed and nourish us. At Jesus' last meal with his friends, before facing the cross, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it. Then he passed it among them saying:

One: This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat, do this to remember me.

Many: Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe for from grapes which grow ripe and sweet on the vine, you have given us the gift of wine to refresh and heal us. At Jesus' last meal with his friends, he took the cup of wine and blessed it. Then he passed it among them saying:

One: This is my blood shed for you. Take and drink, do this to remember me.

Many: Now we come to your table again, Jesus, mindful of how you laid your life down, so that we and creation could be born anew; mindful of how you took your life up again, so that we and creation could be filled with the life abundant; mindful that we cannot earn or purchase this privilege, but that it is your grace which beckons us, and your grace which ensures that all creation may be one and whole.

Prayer of Consecration

One: May your Spirit work in these fruits of earth, so that they may become for us a sharing in Christ's body and blood.

Many: May your Spirit work in we, who are children of earth, so that we may be transformed into Christ's body, carrying his life, his love, and his salvation to all creation. Amen.

*Communion is received by intinction. Please take bread or a gluten free wafer and dip it into the cup to receive both elements.
The Communion elements are bread and grape juice.*

Music during Communion

Kathleen Smith

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: On this Sunday of World Communion and of celebrating the joy of creation's diversity, we give thanks, Living God, for all the members of your universal church; may we be bound together by the spiritual ties of this celebration. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and for all creation until all of us come to the unity of faith through the Living Christ. Amen.

* 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.

RECEPTION FOLLOWING WORSHIP FOR FRED ROBINSON

Following worship, join us in the Gathering Room to meet Fred and Felicia Robinson and their son, Jordon. Fred has been recommended by Consistory to serve as our Associate Pastor.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, OCTOBER 14

We will hold a Called Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on October 14 for the purpose of recommending Fred Robinson as our Associate Pastor. If you are not able to join the meeting in person, make plans to call a friend in attendance and register your presence and your vote through them! Absentee ballots will be available.

WHAT SHALL I BRING?

How can you help transform Holy Covenant through our 2019 Spending Plan?. Our goal this year is to have a total of \$195,000.00 pledged to the General Fund and \$50,000 pledged to the Building Fund by October 14. Please consider all the work Holy Covenant does and pledge your support for the upcoming year. Online pledging is available at HolyCovenantUCC.org.

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 14 9:30, Breakfast & Opportunities for Involvement

October 21 WELCOME SUNDAY - welcoming new members into membership. Please contact Debbie Davis, Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com with questions.

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.

FAMILY DINNER AT TIME OUT YOUTH (T.O.Y.), OCTOBER 18

TOY is a place where LGTBQ youth ages 11-20 can experience a sense of belonging & community; a place for unconditional acceptance & a safe place for self-expression. Monthly, they offer real home cooked meals. HCUCC's M&J/LGBTQ coordinator Bob Saylor signed us up for October 18, 5:45pm-7:15pm. The plan is for a meal for 30-40 people, of which Bob has a menu planned at a cost of \$60-70. Donations welcomed. A few volunteers are needed to help cook & to transport food to the Center that Thursday evening. Those willing to help, please contact Bob for details, bchs3201@aol.com or 704-239-7342.

SANDWICH MINISTRY, OCTOBER 20

Did you know that once a month some of us get together for 30 minutes of sandwich making? This long-standing ministry is a simple and tangible way to help our homeless neighbors. We will meet at 10am on Saturday October 20 in Holy Covenant's kitchen. All supplies and delivery to the Urban Ministry Center provided. Contact Julie McLelland at j.mclelland@att.net if you are interested.

HCUCC YOGA4ALL, WEDNESDAYS

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities....Beginners and those who are yoga-curious are encouraged to attend. Join us at 7:30 PM

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

The HCUCC book club reading schedule:

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,
Charlotte. Please join us for thoughtful, lively discussions.

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP - KEEP IT SIMPLE!

To help keep us organized, we are now using an electronic signup for volunteers called **SignUpGenius**. You can use the link below to sign up, and you can still sign up on paper if you prefer. <https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks>

HELP FLORENCE RECOVERY WITH CLEAN-UP BUCKETS!

500 Church World Service (CWS) Clean-Up Buckets - five-gallon bucket filled with carefully-selected array of supplies to help people begin to restore their home and businesses are in process. \$75 buys a single bucket. **Make your check payable to HCUCC with FLORENCE RECOVERY in the Memo.** Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and support of our fellow North Carolinians!

CALLING ALL HCUCC ARTISTS/CRAFTERS/BAKERS

HCUCC's Annual Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for the weekend of Nov. 10-11. Participants, please contact Kim Tyler yhr762@yahoo.com or Kay Smith happyartbykay@gmail.com this week.

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.

WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:
Elder for October: Faye Humphrey, fghumphrey@yahoo.com or 704-618-2750
Deacons for October: Joe Behr-Stenzel, Debbie Davis
Greeters: Laura Hankins, Donna Collins
Ushers: JP Griffin, Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barbara Schneller
Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Renee Brown
Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Alice Phelan
Refreshments: Debbie Davis
Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

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)

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

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