



Silent Meditation

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ,
of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.

~ Gaelic Blessing

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 21, 2019

Prelude

Kathleen Smith

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

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

Shakti Subramanian

from "A Wee Worship Book" Wild Goose Resource Group

One: In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world
began,

Many: **God was.**

One: Here and now among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth
for the purposes of heaven,

Many: **God is.**

One: In the future, when we have turned to dust, and all we know has
found its fulfillment,

Many: **God will be.**

One: Not denying the world but delighting in it, not understanding the
world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of
the Holy Spirit,

Many: **God was, God is, God will be.**

* Passing of the Peace

Shakti Subramanian

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

O worship our God, all glorious above
Whose depth stretches broad with infinite love
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of thy might, O sing of thy grace
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space
Thy chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
And strong is thy path on the wings of the storm.

Refrain: You alone are the Matchless One
To you alone may all praise be sung
Your glories and wonders, what tongue can recite?
You breathe in the air, you shine in the light.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light.
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain. *Refrain*

O measureless might, ineffable love,
While angels delight to worship above
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving,
 To God the creator, triumphantly raise.
 Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
 Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
 God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,
 A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
 Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
 As forward we travel from light into light.

Great laws, God enforces, the stars in their courses
 The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
 The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
 The deeps of the ocean proclaim Christ divine.
 We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
 With glad adoration a Song let us raise
 Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
 "To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"

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.)

* Gospel Reading

John 8:31-38

Jean Berg

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free"?'

Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.'

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

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

* Hymn 451

“Be Now My Vision”

SLANE

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
Nothing surpasses the love you impart -
You my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
Ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
Now and forever your child will I be.

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
You, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
Great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Canticle (Unison)

Fred Robinson

from Northumbria Community Morning Prayer

Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.
Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light;
Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right. Amen.

Epistle Lesson Colossians 1:3-4, 10-20 Fred Robinson
In our prayers for you we always thank God...for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints...For this reason...we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.

(Christ Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things.

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 Cosmic Christ" Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation Fred Robinson

Offering Music Kathleen Smith

* Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

φ **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 Fred Robinson

* Hymn

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

KINGSFOLD

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down Your head upon My breast.”

I came to Jesus as I was, Weary and worn and sad;
And there I found a resting place, Where Jesus made me glad.
I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, Draw near, and drink, and live.”

I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I am redeemed.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this lost world’s Light;
Look unto Me, your morn shall rise, And all your day be bright.”

I looked to Jesus, and I found My guiding Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I’ll go, Till trav’ling days are done.

* 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

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

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.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY TEAM MEETING JULY 21

The Racial Justice and Equity Team will next meet July 21 in the Conference Room 12:30 after worship. The team is working on exploring ways that we--as a church--can address issues of racial equity, justice and inclusion per the passage of the resolution from the Consistory. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Rev. Fred Robinson, 770-344-8002 or fredrick@holycovenantucc.org.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY! OFFERING RECEIVED JULY 28

For the last several summers we have been receiving our UCC Christmas Fund offering in July. This offering allows the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, Supplementation of Small Annuities, Retiree Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to individuals in need. In recent years special gifts were provided to over 300 authorized ministers in Florida and Houston areas after hurricanes devastated their regions.

2019 CHARLOTTE PRIDE INTERFAITH SERVICE, AUGUST 11

4-6:00 pm, Caldwell Presbyterian Church, 1609 E 5th Street, Charlotte
Golden Anniversary of Stonewall, a Jubilee of celebration of accomplishment

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR?

If you would be interested in participating in a Holiday Bazaar on November 3, similar to the fun event we have had the past several years, please let Kim Tyler know (bbck4@yahoo.com). The display/sales would be held immediately before and after worship that day. **Please respond to Kim by August 1** if you are interested in participating and selling your baked goods and beautiful hand-made creations in this event. Response to this notice will help Kim to determine if there is enough interest to continue with planning this bazaar.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR DAVID COX ELEMENTARY

The Missions and Justice team will be collecting school supplies for David Cox Elementary School. Supplies can be donated beginning July 21 through

August 11. Lists of needed supplies will be in the gathering room and online at the David Cox Elementary web site. Thanks for your support and your commitment to the world we live in, and thanks for your support of the work of your Missions and Justice team.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

With so many people vacationing or otherwise unavailable, the Sojourners have decided to take off the rest of July and will not meet again until August 4. Between now and then, we will select the next book for our book study, so watch for that title in the July 26th newsletter. All are welcome to join us when we resume in August at 9:45 in the Conference Room.

HCUCC/SPCC BOOK CLUB

Join us for great discussions and fellowship at SouthPark Christian Church at 10:30 am. 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte

August 7 (note the date change) - *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah - discussion leader Sue Pascucci; September 11 - *Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Michele Richardson - discussion leader Diane Burleson; October 9 (date may change if author is available to join us) - *Reboot* by Alan Mulak - discussion leader Jon Heaslet

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP - KEEP IT SIMPLE!

You can use the link below to sign up, and you can still sign up on paper if you prefer. <https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks2019>

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

Elder for July: Jeff Edwards Knight, 704-651-4838 or jeff763@aol.com

Deacons for July: JoAnn Jellison, Lisa Sherman

Greeters: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Johnson

Ushers: Tom Magraw, Suzanne Lamorey, Barb Schneller

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Alice Phelan, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Unstructured Covenant Group

Recyclers: Suzanne Lamorey

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Mary Ruth Edenfield (Donna Collins), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Marilyn Lafferty (Kim Tyler), Bob Lyons (Melissa Noll), Amy Madden (Robert Shepherd), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), David Owens (Donna Collins), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jack Ross (Anne Findlay-Chamberlain), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Chris Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), 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
Rev. Fred Robinson, Associate Pastor
Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant
Ms. Kathleen Smith, Accompanist

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