



Silent Meditation

God asks nothing, and demands nothing, like the stars. It is a life with God which demands these things. You do not have to do these things unless you want to know God. They work on you not on (God) ... you do not have to sit outside in the dark. If, however, you want to look at the stars, you will find darkness is necessary. But the stars neither require nor demand it.

~Annie Dillard

[Jesus] had no romantic notion of the cost of discipleship. He knew that following Him was as unsentimental as duty, as demanding as love.

~Brennan Manning

When I was in my late teens, I wanted to be a preacher.
When I was in my late twenties, I wanted to be a good preacher.
Now that I am older,
I want more than anything else to be a Christian.
To live simply, to love generously, to speak truthfully,
to serve faithfully, and to leave everything else to God.

~Fred Craddock

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 8, 2019

Prelude

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

Linda Clark

One: God is like a potter who shapes and forms our lives.

Many: We are called to be faithful to God's intention.

One: Each person here is a unique, beloved creation of God.

Many: Each person here is given special gifts and talents by God.

One: God seeks for us to be vessels of compassion and service.

Many: Daily, we are given opportunities to witness to God's love.

One: Come, let us worship God who has blessed us so mightily.

**All: Let us praise God with our whole hearts, souls, minds, and
spirits. Amen.**

* Passing of the Peace

Linda Clark

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*

Every new morning, God gives freely
Hearts that are thankful, strength for the task,
People who love us, joy in our service,
All we have need of, if we but ask.

God will be with us, in all our thinking,
In all our speaking, in all we do;
And as we praise God, by all our actions,
God will be with us, seeing us through.

God in the morning, God in the noontide,
God in the evening, all through the day;
God is within us, and all around us,
God goes before us, all of the way.

(stanzas 1,2,4,5)

How firm a foundation for you has been laid,
By God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
For I am your God, I will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.”

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace all sufficient shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed
Your soul to make pure just as gold is refined.”

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”

(Following the Children's Message, pre-schoolers go to extended care and those in kindergarten through fifth grade to Children's Church.)

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Jeremiah 18:1-11

Gregg Walker

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Living God: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Living God: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

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

"We Are Called"
by David Haas

Chancel Choir

Come! live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

Refrain:

We are called to act with justice.
We are called to love tenderly.

We are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love!

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

* Gospel Reading Luke 14:25-33

Fred Robinson

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Fred Robinson

Offering Music

Kathleen Smith

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

☩ 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 173 “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

You have come down to the lakeshore
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.

Refrain:

O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you've called my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will seek other seas.

You know full well my possessions.
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working. (*refrain*)

You need my hands, my exhaustion,
Working love for the rest of the weary -
A love that's willing to go on loving. (*refrain*)

You who have fished other waters;
You, the longing of souls that are yearning:
As loving friend, you have come to call me. (*refrain*)

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response

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 ever more.

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.

COVENANT GROUP MEET-UP IN GATHERING ROOM TODAY

Following worship, come meet our Covenant Group leaders and find a group gathering close to your home! We'd love to increase our connections with one another through times to eat, laugh and pray together in small groups over a meal together.

LET'S GET W.I.S.E. TOGETHER! SEPTEMBER 15 GATHERING AT 9:30 AM

In the spirit of welcome and inclusion, Consistory has set a goal of better supporting those with mental health issues in our congregation and our community. The UCC has developed a program called WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) that helps congregations identify and take practical steps to address these concerns. Join us if interested in contributing to this important work. Questions, contact Meg Houlihan, 704-957-8738 or megmhoulihan@gmail.com.

THE IMPACT OF RACE AND POVERTY IN CHARLOTTE, SEPTEMBER 22 CHURCH POTLUCK IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Bring a potluck dish to share and join us as we explore issues of poverty and race in the Queen City. Rev. Helms Jarrell, co-founder of QC Family Tree, will lead us in worship. Our panelists will discuss ways we can change this devastating narrative and make Charlotte work for all its citizens. Dr. Rodney Sadler will moderate the panelists; Don Thomas (from Leading on Opportunity), Janeen Bryant (from CREED-NC) and Kass Ottley (Community Activist).

NEW EMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL UCC REVIVAL

Monday, Sept 9 - Wednesday, Sept 11; 7 p.m. Nightly

Planting Seeds in the Community (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

All are welcome! New Emmanuel is located at **3546 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte**. Guest preachers include Rev. Nancy E. Allison, Monday; Rev. Dian Griffin Davis, Tuesday; Rev. Fredrick Robinson, Wednesday.

SHELTERING OUR CONGOLESE REFUGEE FAMILY

If you can assist with helping this family, please make a donation to HCUCC with the notation for Sunshine Fund.

YOUTH LED CHARLOTTE STRIKE FOR CLIMATE SEPTEMBER 20, 9:30

Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center, 600 E. 4th St.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners continue to discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. Stevenson was a gifted young attorney when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending the poor, the wrongly condemned, and those trapped in the furthest reaches of our criminal justice system. All are welcome to join us at 9:45 in the Conference Room and no preparation is necessary.

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 September: Suzanne Lamorey, suzlam@yahoo.com or 704-654-7267

Deacons for September: Martha Bomely, Holly Middleton

Greeters: Laura Hankins, Von McQueen-Simmons

Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Lorraine Edwards, Jim Hong, Bob Saylor

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley-Dennis, Micki Spear

Refreshments: South Charlotte Covenant Group

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

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

The family of Kaj O'Leary (Melissa Noll)

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Mary Ruth Edenfield Beatty (Donna Collins), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Scott Gleditsch (Barb Schneller), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Faye Grumbles (Linda Clark), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Marilyn Lafferty (Kim Tyler), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Amy Madden (Robert Shepherd), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), Carolyn Marshall (Linda Clark), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jack Ross (Anne Findlay-Chamberlain), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Irene Sharpe (Robert Shepherd), Barbara Shook (Dawn Simmons), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), John Teague (Donna Collins), Dorothy Underwood (Keith & Cheri Dennis), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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