



The Wakami Vision

“I have a dream that all communities have houses, that all houses have a window, that from all windows a garden may be seen, that in all gardens there is a ball, that all balls belong to girls and boys that go to school, that all schools have PTA’s with mothers and fathers that work, that all those who work may reach markets, that markets multiply houses with windows, that in the new windows trees and birds multiply... So the sky may be blue and the sun bright for everyone!”

~ Maria Pacheco

*I thank you God for this most amazing day,
for the leaping greenly spirits of trees,
and for the blue dream of sky
and for everything which is natural,
which is infinite, which is yes.*

~e.e. cummings

The Earth is not dying - it is being killed.

And the people who are killing it have names and addresses.

~Utah Phillips

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY ~ WELCOME SUNDAY

February 12, 2017

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

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

* Call to Worship

Lisa Cloninger

One: Planet Earth, enveloped in the breath of God:

Many: May the life-giving Spirit of God sustain all your creatures this day.

One: We live in a land we love; it is our precious, fragile home:

Many: We celebrate, with all creation, God's presence in our life-giving land.

One: God has called all heaven and earth to witness our stewardship of this land,

Many: May we walk in the ways of God, loving and serving all of God's creation.

One: God sets before us life and prosperity, death and adversity,

All: May we walk in the ways of God, choosing life and living gratefully.

* Passing of the Peace

One: Come, let us now greet one another as a sign of God's peace, for the peace of Christ is here to stay.

Many: Thanks be to God.

** All rise in body or spirit ☩ Sing Response ✕ Seating by Ushers*

* Hymn

“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing”

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 God 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”

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.)

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 5: 27-37

Barry Holcomb

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman (or a man) with lust has already committed adultery in their heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell....

'Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to God." But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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

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

Mission Moment

Barry Holcomb

1. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Ma-ker’s throne
let all my needs and wants be known.
In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief,
my soul has of-ten found re-lief,
and oft es-caped the tempt-er’s snare
by your re-turn, sweet hour of prayer!

Pastoral Prayer

Gregg Walker

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Gregg Walker

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Living One your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Living God, walking in God’s ways, and observing the commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Living One your God, obeying and holding fast to God; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that God swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

“Heaven & Earth Witness Against Us”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Gregg Walker

Offering Music

* Offering Response

SCHUMANN

φ **We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, we give it gratefully.**

Offertory Dedication

Gregg Walker

The Reception of New Members

Questions & Responses of the Candidates

Response of the Congregation

One: Will the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ please rise and join in the mutual promise and welcome?

* Many: **We welcome each of you and celebrate your journey of faith. We promise to search with you for truth in Scripture, word and witness; to walk with you in life's joys and sorrows; to support you when life is shaken; to laugh with you when life lifts your spirit; to share silence, song and sacrament; and to grow in Christian love and mutual appreciation. We will rely on God's sustaining presence as we journey forward together.**

Greeting of Christian Love

Hosts: *On behalf of the entire congregation, it is our pleasure to welcome you as full members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love and welcome.*

1. 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.
2. 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 stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grate-ful praise.
3. 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.
4. 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.

* 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

Jared Fischer

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

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.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome new members Joe & Cindy Damewood, Edward Davis, Keith & Cheri Dennis, Anne Findley-Chamberlain, Michael & Sarah Sladek, Susan Bennett Stiles and Yvette Wynn. Many thanks to our hosts, Jeff & Kevin Edwards-Knight, Joe McLelland, Micheal Hall, Debbie Davis, Sue Pascucci and Cheri Lovell, for guiding our new members.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MARCH 12

On the recommendation of our Budget & Finance Team, Consistory is calling for a Congregational Meeting following worship on March 12 for the purpose of re-negotiating the terms of our current loan.

GUEST HANNAH MITCHELL, FEBRUARY 19 & 26, 9:45 am

Hannah Mitchell, a local organizer and activist with Green Peace, is leading a workshop on the Sunday mornings of the 19th and 26th of February, in *Organizing and Activist 101 and 102* training with our youth and young adults.

BOOK CLUB GATHERING, FEB. 13

For our next meeting, Jon Heaslet will lead our discussion of Gyasi's *Homegoing* at SouthPark Christian Church 6650 Park South Drive. We have tentatively listed *American Dervish* for March.

12 X 12 CHALLENGE

Can you join our Mission and Justice Team in accepting the challenge to do justice and show mercy through taking one specific action each month that helps heal our wounded world? One a month is the 12X12 challenge!

Look for our official kickoff coming soon. When you complete a challenge activity, email lisacmsw@hotmail.com to log your activity. We will keep track of how many acts of mission and justice we do as a congregation.

STAND WITH STANDING ROCK!

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced its intention to issue a permit for the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline under Lake Oahe. This pipeline permit route jeopardizes drinking water and desecrates sacred burial grounds of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation. The Army Corps also stated that they would grant the easement without completing an Environmental Impact Statement.

Act Today: Call Secretary of Defense James Mattis and urge him not to grant the easement without a full Environmental Impact Statement that

properly consults the Standing Rock Sioux Nation and upholds treaty obligations.

Call: 703-571-3343, Extension 5 to leave a message.

Here is what you might say:

Hello, my name is _____ and I am from Holy Covenant UCC in Charlotte, NC. As a person of faith, I am deeply concerned about the well-being of the Standing Rock Sioux people.

Granting an easement for the Dakota Access Pipeline without first completing an Environmental Impact Statement circumvents an important legal process and jeopardizes the health and human rights of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

Because the Department of Defense has direct jurisdiction over the Army Corps, I urge Secretary Mattis to ensure that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers abides by the processes they set forth in December by completing a full Environmental Impact Statement, while properly consulting the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and honoring treaty obligations.

Thank you.

CREATION JUSTICE PATHWAYS IN NC, MARCH 25, 9am-2:30

Parkway United Church of Christ, 2151 Silas Creek Parkway, W-Salem
Marilynn Marsh-Robinson, Speaking Truth to Power: Environmental Justice in NC; Dr. Daniel Vermeer, Energy 2050: Understanding the Present Reality and Possible Futures of the US Energy System; Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler Making a Cleaner, Greener, Better World: Fusing Climate Change and Social Justice.

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

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

Greeters: Sue Pascucci, Barb Schneller, Recyclers: Diane Rogers

Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Tom Magraw, John Maze

Media: Brian Hankins, Tabulators: Sally McLester, Kathleen Smith



Congregational Feedback

We are always seeking to strengthen the worship experience at Holy Covenant. Can you help us by sharing your thoughts? Please tear off and add to the offering plate or pass along to our liturgist today, Gregg Walker.

Congregational Music	Really?	Fitting	Perfect
“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing”			
“The Earth Is Yours”			
“Sweet Hour of Prayer”			
“For the Beauty of the Earth”			

Scripture & Sermon	Really?	Fitting	Perfect
Children’s Message			
Texts & Sermon			

New Member Welcome
Over all Worship Experience

HELP US PLAN LENT _____

HELP US PLAN EASTER SEASON _____

HELP US PLAN PENTECOST _____

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Kathleen Wagner in the death of her sister, JoAnn Celmer
Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Diane Garvey, Steve Garvey, Karen Griffin, Helen Lambert, Melissa Noll, Irene Mikkelson, Yami Senturias, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Bill Funderburk, Penny Butler and Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), Carrie McLelland (Joe McLelland), Jay Patel (Karen Griffin), Tracy Reed (Dawn Simmons), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Tommy Simpson (Cynthia Simpson), David Stoimenoff & Jim Germann

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor

Mr. Jared Fischer, Music Director

Mr. Steven Burleson, Youth & Young Adult Pastor

Mr. Gregg Walker, Ministry Intern

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510

www.holycovenantucc.org office@holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810