



CELEBRATING WILDFLOWERS

Camassia quamash
Camas or Camas Lily

Camas Lilies

Consider the lilies of the field,
The blue banks of camas opening
Into acres of sky along the road.
Would the longing to lie down
And be washed by that beauty
Abate if you knew their usefulness,
How the natives ground their bulbs
For flour, how the settlers' hogs
Uprooted them, grunting in gleeful
Oblivion as the flowers fell?

And you - what of your rushed
And useful life? Imagine
setting it all down -
Papers, plans, appointments,
everything - Leaving only a note:
"Gone to the fields to be lovely. Be back
When I'm through with blooming."

Even now, unneeded and uneaten,
The camas lilies gaze out above the grass
From their tender blue eyes.
Even in sleep your life will shine.
Make no mistake. Of course
Your work will always matter.
Yet Solomon in all his glory
Was not arrayed like one of these.

~ Lynn Ungar

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 26, 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

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Joe Brown Kiser

One: Gracious and merciful God, Creator and Author of all life;

**Many: May our eyes, see as yours: people as persons, beautiful in
our diversity of culture, age, gender, sexuality, race and
creed.**

One: Let us delight in one another, and reaffirm our love and
commitment to You and all creation;

**Many: That we may be made holy, becoming channels of blessing,
peace and understanding.**

One: As You have set your rainbow in the heavens,

Many: Draw us into your covenant of love.

One: May the sun and the stars delight our hearts with the fiery
passion of creativity,

**Many: May the trees shade us from heat and shelter us from wind so
that we may rest in your grace.**

**All: May the goodness of creation remind us that we are called to
be co-creators with our Creating God!**

* 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*

1. Now the green blade ris-es from the bur-ied grain;
Wheat that in dark earth for man-y days has lain;
Love lives a-gain, that with the dead has been:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

2. In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
Think-ing that their Love would nev-er wake a-gain,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un-seen:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

3. Christ came forth at Eas-ter, like the ris-en grain,
Je-sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead the ris-en One is seen:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

4. When our hearts are win-try, griev-ing, or in pain,
Christ’s warm touch can call us back to life a-gain,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

* 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, worn, and sad
I found him in a resting place and he has made me glad

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one, stoop down 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 live, redeemed

I heard the voice of Jesus say “I am this dark 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 walk till traveling days are done] 2x*

Children’s Message “Expressing our Gratitude” 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.)*

Contemporary Reading “Camas Lilies” Tina Ettesen
(on front cover)

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

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

Pastoral Prayer

Special Music

“My Life Is In You”

by Daniel Gardner

Judah Jones, vocals, guitar, and additional lyrics

My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord.

My hope is in you, Lord, in you, in you.

I serve you with all of my heart; I serve you for all of my days,

With all of my heart, for all of my days, all my hope is in you.

You care for the birds of the air; you care for the forests and fields.

Creator of all, your love overflows! All my hope is in you.

I praise you with all of my life; I praise you with all of my strength,

With all of my life, with all of my strength, all my hope is in you.

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:24-34

Gregg Walker

No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ‘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 Mother 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. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

But strive first for the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

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

“Setting it All Down”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Harvest Prayer

“Be gentle with yourself and others. We are all children of chance, and none can say why some fields blossom while others lay brown beneath the harvest sun. Take hope that your season will come. Share the joy of those whose season is at hand.

Care for those around you. Look past your differences. Their dreams are no less than yours, their choices in life no more easily made.

And give. Give in any way you can. Give in every way you can. Give whatever you possess. Give from your heart. To give is to love. To withhold is to wither. Care less for the size of your harvest than for how it is shared, and your life will have meaning and your heart will have peace. Amen.”

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

* Hymn

“’Tis So Sweet”

’Tis so sweet to trust you, Jesus, just to take you at your word
Just to rest upon your promise, just to know that you are good.

Refrain: Jesus, Jesus, how I trust you!
How I’ve proved you o’er and o’er,
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O, for grace to trust you more! (*And more, and more*)

From your well of love unceasing, streams a mighty river's flow,
Deep, I plunge, with full abandon, 'neath the healing, cleansing flood.
(*Refrain*)

Though the world may fall around me, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend,
This I know, that you are with me, will be with me to the end.
(*Refrain*)

* 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!*

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, 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.

SUNSHINE FUND DONATIONS NEEDED

The Sunshine Fund (SSF) at Holy Covenant needs your donations to fund current needs in the congregation! The SSF provides temporary assistance to members of our congregation in times of financial crisis. These funds help prevent eviction, pay mortgage payments to stop foreclosure, reinstate insurance, buy groceries, etc. The Sunshine Fund is a non-budgeted fund that depends on contributions from members and friends of the congregation to operate. Funds are not used until all available community resources are exhausted. Thanks for your help!

HOLY COVENANT CHANCEL CHOIR FOR THE SEASON OF LENT AND EASTER

Choir rehearsals for the season will begin on Wednesday, March 1 at 8:00 pm, or directly following the Ash Wednesday service. The Holy Covenant Chancel Choir would love for you to join us during this special season. Contact Jared Fischer at music@holycovenantucc.org for more information.

YOUTH NEWS: CONFIRMATION ON MARCH 5

For the last several weeks Youth Pastor Steven Burleson has been meeting our students as they think together about matters of faith. We are delighted that many will be confirmed into the congregation on March 5th and that they will be our worship leaders for the day!

SEASON OF LENT DISCIPLINES OF DISCOMFORT

If the church's call is to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable" - there's no better time for that affliction than the Season of Lent! Find a way to move out of your comfort zone this Lent and see what impact the disorientation has on your spiritual growth. Here is a sampling of 'disciplines' available:

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, MARCH 1, 7:00PM



The forty days before Easter begin with our Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary. It's a time that calls us to new life and challenges us to live our "best" life for forty days. Join us for this meaningful opportunity for self reflection and prayer.

DIVING LESSONS, 2017 Lent Devotional

Diving Lessons is a fresh collection of unique Lenten devotions that includes an insightful scripture verse and prayer for each day of Lent. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 1, and continuing through Easter Sunday, April 16, they will be available in the Gathering Room soon.

THE WORKING HOMELESS, SUNDAY MARCH 5, 9:45 AM

Keith Wilson, recipient of The Men's Shelter's Heroes for the Homeless award will talk about the "working homeless." Keith is a board member and former board chair of several homeless services agencies and a frequent, thoughtful contributor of editorials regarding homelessness in the Charlotte Observer. **Join us at 9:45 in the Conference Room**, no preparation is needed. Childcare is available!

A DAY APART, SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 10 AM - 3 PM

Celebrate the glories of God and a beautiful spring with opportunities for spiritual nourishment through poems, scripture, centering exercises, journaling, walking, and opportunities for sharing with others. New member, Rev. Anne Findlay-Chamberlain will join Pastor Nancy in leading the retreat day. **RSVP to office@holycovenantucc.org**. Min. of 5 people, max. of 12.

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

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. Please RSVP interest for carpooling to
office@holycovenantucc.org.

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**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.*

| <b>Congregational Music</b>      | <b>Really?</b> | <b>Fitting</b> | <b>Perfect</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| “Now the Green Blade Rises”      | _____          | _____          | _____          |
| “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” | _____          | _____          | _____          |
| “Tis So Sweet”                   | _____          | _____          | _____          |

| <b>Scripture &amp; Sermon</b> | <b>Really?</b> | <b>Fitting</b> | <b>Perfect</b> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Children’s Message            | _____          | _____          | _____          |
| Texts & Sermon                | _____          | _____          | _____          |

**Please rank 1-4**

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| <b>I attend worship</b>           |       |
| To be encouraged                  | _____ |
| To connect with community         | _____ |
| For spiritual growth and guidance | _____ |
| Keeps me grounded/inspired        | _____ |

**Overall Worship Experience**

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**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: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Johnson  
Ushers: Joe Craig, Eileen Howe, Alice Phelan  
Media: Brian Hankins  
Tabulators: Tina Dickens, Terry Raley-Dennis

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Members**

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Diane Garvey, Steve Garvey, Jim Humphrey, 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), Kath Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), 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), Tracy Reed (Dawn Simmons), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Tommy Simpson (Cynthia Simpson), David Stoimenoff & Jim Germann, Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow)

**Holy Covenant United Church of Christ**

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

**Mr. Jared Fischer, Music Director**

**Mr. Steven Burlison, Youth & Young Adult Pastor**

**Mr. Gregg Walker, Ministry Intern**

**Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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