



love of children ~ creation ~ neighbor

Silent Meditation

With their silver and gold they made idols for themselves, to their own destruction... When they sow the wind, they shall reap the whirlwind...the Living God is not pleased with them. God shall still remember their guilt and punish their sins.

~ from Hosea 4

Now we are all learning what it's like to reap the whirlwind of fossil fuel dependence... Our destructive addiction has given us a catastrophic war in the Middle East and - now - Katrina is giving our nation a glimpse of the climate chaos we are bequeathing our children.

-Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST
3 Great Loves: Love of Creation

October 15, 2017

10:55 AM

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 friendship pads so that all worshippers
might have the opportunity to sign them)*

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship *(from Psalm 29)*

Joe Behr Stenzel

One: Acknowledge, O heavenly beings, God's glory and strength.
Worship the Living God in holy splendor.

Many: **The voice of the Almighty is over the waters; The God of glory
thunders, Ruler over mighty waters.**

One: The voice of God is powerful and full of majesty. The voice of
God breaks the cedars;

Many: **The voice of God flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of God
shakes the wilderness;**

One: The voice of God causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest
bare; In God's holy temple all say, "Glory!"

Many: **May God give strength to us! May God bless us with peace!**

* Passing of the Peace

Joe Behr Stenzel

One: We are renewed by the vitality of creation, the love of God and
the love of our sisters and brothers in Christ. So 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* ✕ *Hymnals located below pews*

1. I sing the might-y power of God
that made the moun-tains rise,
That spread the flow-ing seas a-broad,
and built the loft-y skies.
I sing the wis-dom that or-dained
the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God’s com-mand,
and all the stars o-bey.

2. I sing the good-ness of our God
that filled the earth with food;
God formed the crea-tures with a word,
and then pro-nounced them good.
Oh, how your won-ders are dis-played,
wher-e’er I turn my eye;
If I sur-vey the ground I tread,
or gaze up-on the sky!

3. On earth there’s not a plant or flower
but makes your glo-ry known.
The clouds a-rise and spread their showers
by or-der from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you
and ev-er in your care;
Wher-ev-er peo-ple gath-er, you,
O God, are pres-ent there.

“The Earth Is Yours”

by M. Gungor

**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... (Chorus 2x)**

Children’s Message & Offering

Nancy Ellett Allison

(Following the Children’s Message, preschoolers go to extended care and those in kindergarten through fifth grade to Children’s Church.)

Hebrew Wisdom

Job 28:20-28

Jeff Rivenbark

Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding? It is hidden from the eyes of all living, and concealed from the birds of the air. Abaddon and Death say, ‘We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.’ “God understands the way to it, and he knows its place. For he looks to the ends of the earth, and sees everything under the heavens. When he gave to the wind its weight, and apportioned out the waters by measure; when he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the thunderbolt; then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out. And God said to humankind, ‘Truly, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.’”

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

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

Journey of Generosity

Jeff Rivenbark

* Hymn of Preparation

“Oceans”

You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep, my faith will stand

*Chorus: And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine*

Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now *Chorus*

Bridge (3x): Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior - *to Chorus after 3rd time*

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 8: 23-27

Martha Bomely

And when Jesus got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A gale arose on the lake, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We are perishing!’ And he said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, you of little faith?’ Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, ‘What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?’

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 "Into the Storm" Nancy Ellett Allison

Offering Invitation Martha Bomely

Offering Music

* Offering Response OLD HUNDREDTH

φ Praise God who gives all blessings birth;
Praise God all creatures on the earth;
Praise God, who makes, sustains, sets free;
One holy God in persons three. Amen.

* Offertory Dedication Martha Bomely

The Baptism & Reception of New Members

Questions of the Candidates

Response of the Congregation

One: Will the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ please rise and join in offering our commitments 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.*

* Hymn

“This Is My Mother’s World”

TERRA BEATA

This is my Mother's world / And to my listening ears
All nature sings and round me rings / The music of the spheres.
This is my Mother's world / I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas / Her hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, / The birds their carols raise
The morning light, the lily white / Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world / He shines in all that's fair
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass / He speaks to me everywhere.

This is our Maker's world / Oh let us ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong / God is the ruler yet.
This is our Maker's world / Why should our hearts be sad?
Love's perfect will shall triumph still / God reigns let the earth be glad!
Love's perfect will shall triumph still / God reigns let the earth be glad!

* 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

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.

JOURNEY OF GENEROSITY

As we look forward to making 2018 a year in which we can continue our ministry at Holy Covenant through worshipping God, supporting one another, and being a place where all people are welcome, we ask you to join the journey of generosity through your support of our 2018 Spending Plan. There are many exciting things happening at Holy Covenant which need funding, as do the less glamorous items like paying the mortgage and the electric bill.

Our goal this year is to have a total of \$192,000.00 pledged to the General Fund and \$50,000 pledged to the Building Fund by October 22. Over the next few weeks, several HCUCC members will be sharing their stewardship stories and we will be updating you on pledge totals weekly. Please consider all the work Holy Covenant does and pledge your support for the upcoming year.

We are presently at 42% of goal for our General (Operating) Fund and 69% of goal for our Building Fund. Online pledges available at <http://holycovenantucc.org/make-your-2018-pledge-online/>

12x12 SERVE. STAND UP. SHARE.

Take action with Missions & Justice! We need to be heard; we need to act! M&J wants to know how the people of Holy Covenant are responding to the many issues facing our people and our society today. Write your mission, drop it in the basket in the Gathering Room and M&J will track them as the year goes along.

- Support the UNCC students with gently used professional clothing for interviews! Food items (especially international fare) and clothing can be dropped in the basket in the gathering room. **Jimal Niner Student Pantry** expanded their outreach to UNCC students
- Attend the Solar Prayer Vigil, October 24 at Duke Energy Headquarters
- Not one, but one hundred sandwiches at a time! The HCUCC Sandwich Ministry gathers Saturday Oct. 21, Holy Covenant UCC & Wednesday, Oct 25, South Park Christian Church. Join us, won't you?!

SOJOURNERS CLASS~NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING

Join us in a lively discussion of *Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy* this Sunday. All are welcome and no preparation is necessary.

WEDNESDAY YOGA

Yoga takes a break on **October 18**. Please join David Smith and friends, Wednesdays at 7:30 pm for yoga, fun and fellowship on October 25th. No experience necessary. Facebook: HCUCC Yoga4all.

THE BOOK CLUB, SECOND WEDNESDAYS

Join us at 10:30 am, **SouthPark Christian Church** for the following discussions: November 15- *A Full Life* by Jimmy Carter discussion leader Barbara Schneller, December 13- *A Short History of a Small Place* by T.R. Pearson discussion leader Sharon Landis.

CHILDREN'S USED BOOK COLLECTION BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Connie Hildebrand's AAUW is focusing on children's literacy this year. In York County, 57% of our children are reading below grade level by the 3rd grade. Literacy is directly linked to graduation rates, long term success, and earning potential. Help us put books in the hands of children. Books will be distributed to the hospital and libraries around the county. Leave your children's books in the box provided next to the gathering room door.

UCC's Disaster Ministries: http://www.ucc.org/donate_to_disaster_relief.

SOLAR PRAYER VIGIL, OCTOBER 24

You are invited to take part in a prayer vigil in support of increased access to solar energy for North Carolina faith institutions. Duke Energy headquarters, 550 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, Tuesday, October 24, 4 p.m. Questions? Email faithinsolar@gmail.com

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

Elder for October: Faye Humphrey, fghumphrey@aol.com or 704-618-2750

Deacons for October: Martha Bomely, Sally Duffy

Recyclers: Linn Finger

Greeters: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Johnson

Ushers: Barry Holcomb, Suzanne Lamorey

Media: Brian Hankins, Suzanne Lamorey, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Lori Cipot, Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Lisa Cloninger, Kathi Smith

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Anita Taylor in the death of her husband, Moses Taylor.

David & Kay Smith and family in the death of David's mother, Betsy Ann Smith
Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, David Cable, Donna Collins,
Ginny & Bob Fisher, Phil Kaveler, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Isabelle
Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed & Beth Sharp, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Mark Mashburn and family in the death of his wife (Robert Shepherd)

Gina Null and family in the death of her mother (Robert Shepherd)

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Bill Funderburk, Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight),
Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop),
Nancy Knapp (Suzanne Hopkins), Beth Poyer Meyer, JoAnn Murphey (Laura Murphey),
Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis),
Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Becky Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto & family (Aida Marcial),
Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), Cindy Wagner (Donna Collins), Wayne & Libby
Walters (Barry Holcomb), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp),
Elizabeth Wilson (Donna Collins)

Candid photographs and/or video recording share our work and witness and invite others into the fellowship of our congregation. Some pictures/video may be published in church print publications, on our website or on our official social media sites. If you do not wish to have your image published, please contact the church office by phone or email.

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

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

Ms. Cheri Dennis, Ministry Intern

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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