



Silent Meditation

**Sometimes the mountain
is hidden from me in veils
of cloud, sometimes
I am hidden from the mountain
in veils of inattention, apathy, fatigue,
when I forget or refuse to go
down to the shore or a few yards
up the road, on a clear day,
to reconfirm
that witnessing presence.**

~Denise Levertov

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

July 15, 2018

Gathering Music

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

Jim Hong

One: Open our lips, O Living God,

Many: **and we shall declare your praise.**

One: Open our eyes to recognize your gifts in all people

Many: **and our calling to be children of God.**

One: Open our hands to accept your free gifts

Many: **and your gracious call to play our part in your ministry.**

One: Open our spirits in this day, Great Creator,

Many: **and allow us to worship as one with you!**

* Passing of the Peace

Jim Hong

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*

* Hymn

“This Is the Day”

THIS IS THE DAY

This is the day, (Echo) This is the day,
That the Lord has made, That the Lord has made.
I will rejoice, I will rejoice
And be glad in it, And be glad in it!

*Chorus: This is the day, that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the day; this is the day that the Lord has made!*

This is the day, (Echo) This is the day,
That the Spirit moved, That the Spirit Moved
I will rejoice, I will rejoice
And be glad in it, And be glad in it!

*Chorus: This is the day, that the Spirit moved.
I will rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the day; this is the day that the Spirit moved!*

1. My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' love and righteousness.
I dare not trust this earthly frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When shows veils my Savior's face,
I rest upon unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. *(Refrain)*
3. Christ's oath and covenant and blood
support me in the rising flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
Christ then is all my hope and stay. *(Refrain)*
4. When Christ shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Love be found,
Dressed in God's righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. *(Refrain)*

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.)

The Reception of New Members

Questions of Candidate Mark Williams

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.*

Song of Celebration

HALLELUJAH

ϕ Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah, Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah;
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

Pastoral Prayer

Barbara Thomas

Special Music

“From This Valley”
words and music by Joy Williams
Lisa Cloninger, David McGuirt, Kathleen Smith

Oh, the desert dreams of a river that will run down to the sea
Like my heart longs for an ocean to wash down over me.

Chorus:

Oh, won't you take me from this valley to that mountain high above?
I will pray, pray, pray until I see your smiling face.
I will pray, pray, pray to the one I love.

Oh, the outcast dreams of acceptance, just to find pure love's embrace
Like an orphan longs for his mother. May you hold me in your grace.
(Chorus)

Oh, the caged bird dreams of a strong wind that will flow 'neath her
wings. Like a voice longs for a melody, oh, Jesus carry me.
(Chorus)

#FaithwithFeet Report

Suzanne Lamorey

Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 1:3, 15-23

Suzanne Lamorey

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know God, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which you are called, what are the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe, according to the working of this great power. God put this power to work in Christ when God raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at God's right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And God has put all things under Christ's feet and has made Christ the head over all things for the church, which is the body of Christ, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

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

“God’s Chosen”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Christmas in July

Barbara Thomas

Offertory Invitation

Barbara Thomas

Offering Music

“Living Prayer”
by Alison Krauss
Lisa Cloninger, David McGuirt

In this world I walk alone with no place to call my home
But there's one who holds my hand
The rugged road through barren lands
The way is dark, the road is steep
But He's become my eyes to see
The strength to climb, my griefs to bear
The Savior lives inside me there.

In your love I find release
A haven from my unbelief
Take my life and let me be
A living prayer my God to thee.

In these trials of life I find
Another voice inside my mind
He comforts me and bids me live
Inside the love the Father gives.

In your love I find release
A haven from my unbelief
Take my life and let me be
A living prayer my God to thee
take my life and let me be
A living prayer my God to thee.

* Offering Response 55

MARION

☐ Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God forevermore
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

* Offertory Dedication

Barbara Thomas

* Hymn 173

PESCADORE DE HOMBRES

“You Have Come down to the Lakeshore”

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 my fishnets and will 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 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

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.

MINISTRY DURING OUR INTERIM: THANK YOU TO KATHLEEN SMITH

Kathi Smith has been a member of Holy Covenant since 2002 and throughout her membership has been engaged in our music ministries. We are grateful to Kathi for leading us in worship today as we begin this interim time together.

David Smith has agreed to direct the Music Cooperative and we will continue to enjoy their worship leadership in the weeks ahead. The Personnel Team is actively searching for new music leadership and if you have any suggestions, we would be delighted to hear from you. Personnel Chair is Sally Duffy. Contact her at drduffy@drsallyduffy.com.

#FAITHWITHFEET CAMPAIGN

Thank you for support of Juan, an eight year old from Guatemala being deported. We need funds to help defray the cost of travel for Juan and Suzanne Lamorey, who will accompany him. **Please send donations made out to Holy Covenant and write Guatemala in the memo.** Questions? Contact Lisa Cloninger at lisacmsw@hotmail.com. #FaithwithFeet.

SPECIAL OFFERING CHRISTMAS IN JULY

On July 29, 2018, we will receive the UCC Christmas Fund offering to show appreciation for the many pastors who have helped carry our burdens. Many of these aging and retired pastors have served small churches in rural areas that simply do not have the means to financially support them once they retire. These dedicated men and women served selflessly, and we have a chance to give them the thanks they deserve. This is the one time we are asked to match our appreciation with our resources for those

who have retired from faithful service to the church. Please memo your offering *UCC Christmas Fund*.

GREENFAITH MEETING AUGUST 5

Rev. Amy Brooks, green-circle organizer, will be meeting with us following worship to share the GreenFaith initiative that is beginning in the Charlotte area. GreenFaith initiatives bring people together from different congregations and communities at the local level to address environmental concerns.

GAME NIGHT, SATURDAY, JULY 21

The River People Covenant Group welcomes all to attend a family game night at Holy Covenant! 6pm-8:30pm. Bring board games and snacks to share.

CALLING ALL HCUCC ARTISTS/CRAFTERS/BAKERS

HCUCC's Annual Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for the weekend of **November 10-11**. Setup is on Saturday, with a reception and early sale event that evening. The bazaar will continue Sunday morning before and after the church service. **Start planning and working now; we need you to help make this a wonderful event!** If you have pictures of your handiwork, please send them (for use in the church advertisements) to Kim Tyler at yhr762@yahoo.com. Questions can be addressed to Kim or Kay Smith at happyartbykay@gmail.com.

SHALEM GATHERING, JULY 22

Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation is hosting a Charlotte Area Gathering the afternoon of Sunday, July 22, from 2 - 5:00 PM, at Providence Presbyterian Church, Charlotte. It is an opportunity for folks whether connected or not with Shalem to gather for contemplative prayer and a community story-telling process. Contact Anne Findlay-Chamberlain by July 18 to RSVP or for more information, kahuanne@gmail.com or 808-282-4631.

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

August 8 - The Sense of an Ending by *Julian Barnes* (and if you have the time - Our Souls at Night by *Kent Haruf*) discussion leader Sue Pascucci
September 12- Pachinko by *Min Jin Lee* discussion leader Barbara Schneller.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte. Please join us for thoughtful, lively discussions.

CHARLOTTE PRIDE'S ANNUAL INTERFAITH SERVICE, AUGUST 12

Sunday, August 12th at 4:00 p.m.

St. John's Baptist Church, 300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte

There will be a reception following the Service.

CHARLOTTE PRIDE, AUGUST 18 & 19

HCUCC BOOTH DOWNTOWN SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Can you help with the HCUCC booth? Look for the signup sheet coming soon in the Gathering Room.

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

Elder for July: Michael Baldonado,
michaelbaldonado@hotmail.com or 502-541-5957

Deacons for July: Sally Duffy, Cheryl Milam

Greeters: Anne Hayes, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Tom Magraw, Suzanne Lamorey, Jim Hong

Acolyte: Elena Houlihan

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Joy Decker, Jo Ann Jellison

Refreshments: Meg Houlihan, Elena Houlihan

Recyclers: Linn Finger

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Susan Bennett Stiles, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Caroline & Don Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Logan Bayes, Caryn Capps, Baby Girl Cregan (Barb Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Bill Funderburk, Caroline Herdle (Beth Sharp), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren), Beth Poyer Meyer, Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Beckye Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Rev. Barbara Thomas, Minister for Church & Family Life

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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