



(Photo credit: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet)

Silent Meditation

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

~Psalm 139:14

Caring for your body, mind, and spirit is your greatest and grandest responsibility. It's about listening to the needs of your soul and then honoring them.

~Kristi Ling

When we self-regulate well, we are better able to control the trajectory of our emotional lives and resulting actions based on our values and sense of purpose.

~ Amy Leigh Mercree

God's resources are inexhaustible.

~ Lailah Gifty

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEASON OF CREATION ~ HUMANITY SUNDAY**

September 23, 2018

Gathering Music David A. Smith

Welcome and Announcements Gregg Walker

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 David A. Smith

* Call to Worship from Psalm 46 Ed Vickery

One: Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

**Many: Christ, as we come to into this sanctuary today, we enter the
holy mountain of God.**

One: Holy! Holy! Holy! God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-
present help in distress.

**Many: Though the earth trembles, and mountains slide into the sea,
we will not fear. Waters may rise and roar, and mountains
shake at their surging; but the God of hosts is with us - our
stronghold, the God of Israel.**

One: Even as nations and cities are in chaos, God's voice resounds;
Yahweh is with us; the God of Israel is our stronghold.

**Many: God alone is our refuge and hope, our shelter and protection.
From our very first breath to our last, God's love and
compassion never fails.**

One: Come, lift your voices in praise to God.

**Many: Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love. Proclaim God's
glory to all who will listen. Let us worship God together.**

* Passing of the Peace

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* ☩ *Sing Response* ✕ *Hymnals located below pews*

* Hymn “To You, O God, All Creatures Sing” LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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 Lord 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”
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...

Children's Message

Gregg Walker

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

Stewardship Moment

Kevin Decker

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 1: 26-31

Phil Kaveler

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God she created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Genesis 2: 8-17

And the Living God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there she put the man whom she had formed. Out of the ground the Almighty God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Living God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Living God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

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

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

In my wrestling and in my doubts,
in my failures, you won't walk out.
Your great love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence you won't let go,
in the questions your truth will hold.
Your great love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

Refrain:

My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse,
Shining in the darkness, I will follow you.
My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse,
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore...

I won't fear what tomorrow brings,
With each morning I'll rise and sing.
My God's love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea. *Refrain*

Bridge:

Fire before us, you're the brightest,
You will lead us through the storms. *Refrain*

Prayers of the People

Gregg Walker

* Gospel

Matthew 22: 36-40

Gregg Walker

A lawyer asked, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

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

“When Born in Eden” Melissa McQueen-Simmons

Offertory Invitation

Gregg Walker

Offering Music

David A. Smith

* Offering Response 55

MARION

ϕ **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

Gregg Walker

* Hymn

“Oceans”

by M. Crocker, J. Houston, S. Lighthelm

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*)

* Benediction

Melissa McQueen-Simmons

* Benediction Response 391

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 evermore.

Postlude

David A. Smith

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.

NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

If you would like to learn more about our congregation or become a member at Holy Covenant, please join our Inquirer's Classes! Child care is provided.

September 23 9:30 am History of UCC & Holy Covenant

September 30 9:30 am Who We Are & What We Believe

October 7 tba Ministry Teams & Opportunities for Involvement

October 14 WELCOME SUNDAY welcoming new members into membership. Contact Debbie Davis, Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com with questions.

THANK YOU TO GUEST PREACHER MELISSA MCQUEEN-SIMMONS

We are delighted to welcome new member Melissa McQueen-Simmons to our pulpit today. Melissa and her wife Vonn have been worshipping with us for several months and we recently celebrated the dedication of their daughter, Camdyn. A UCC minister, Melissa is the North Carolina faith organizer for Many Voices, a black church movement for gay and transgender justice. She is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, and a first-generation college graduate. She earned her M.Div. from Howard University.

MUSIC DURING OUR INTERIM: THANK YOU TO JUDAH JONES & DAVID SMITH

Judah is an Elder in the United Methodist Church and served as our Minister of Music for several years. She returned briefly in 2013 as our interim and has long been a valued participant in our music ministry. David Smith has been a member of Holy Covenant since 1994 and throughout his membership has been engaged in our music ministries. We are grateful to Judah, David and the Music Cooperative for leading us in worship today in this interim time.

BRING A PICTURE OF YOUR PET FOR OCTOBER 1 WORSHIP

October 1 is Saint Francis Sunday so we will celebrate all creatures in worship! Bring a picture of your pet so we can experience the joy of their presence without a cat or dog fight actually occurring!

A TU LADO (BY YOUR SIDE) MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP TODAY

The Mission of the A Tu Lado Partnership is to accompany Central American immigrants in Charlotte and connect the immigrants with agencies in the community that provide basic needs such as food, clothing and medical services. Contact Suzanne Lamorey, SuzLam@yahoo.com, for more information.

MISSIONS & JUSTICE NOTES - YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

If you bought extra bottled water, canned goods or peanut butter please consider donating those to Loaves and Fishes which supplies many storm refugees.

The Food Pantry for the UNCC students is also accepting donations. Collection bins are in the Gathering Room year-round for our food ministries.

The Backpack Ministry supports children at David Cox Elementary School and Morehead Academy. **The Sandwich Ministry** benefits neighbors through Urban Ministry Center. Our south side build team needs someone to deliver the sandwiches once they're assembled. If you're interested in helping please contact Barb Schneller, bschneller@wcupa.edu.

CROP HUNGER WALK, OCTOBER 13

The 40th annual **Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk** will be held on October 13 at 9:00 a.m. starting at Independence Park. This year, Holy Covenant UCC is a named sponsor due to your generous gifts celebrating Barbara Thomas! If you are interested in participating or have questions, call Tina Dickens at 704-965-7708 or taichitina@gmail.com.

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT 2019, JANUARY 18-21 AT BRCC

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly (Micah 6:8)

Registration and information: www.UCCWinterYouthRetreat.org.

Contact Dawn in the church office if you plan to attend.

YOGA4ALL AT HCUCC, WEDNESDAYS at 7:30 PM

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities...Beginners and those who are yoga-curious are encouraged to attend. Questions? Contact David, 704-533-2142
davidsmith02b@gmail.com.

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

October 17; 1984 by *George Orwell* discussion leader Sue Pascucci.
November 14; Varina by *Charles Frazier* discussion leader is Jon Heaslet.
We meet at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive.

BETTER ANGELS - LET'S DEPOLARIZE AMERICA

Better Angels is a grass roots movement of volunteers aiming to take the rancor and hatred out of political discussions in America. Conservatives and Progressives view community life with different core values, so their views about political issues will remain quite different. Better Angels has a motto, "Make America Relate Again." Free workshops offered in the Charlotte area. Consider joining for \$10 a year for email articles, podcasts, and video conference meetings with national public leaders, all from your own home. For conversation about this, write me at rcmid70@ymail.com and we will set up a visit. ~Rich Midkiff
www.better-angels.org/

WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:
Elder for September: Jeff Edwards-Knight, jeff763@aol.com or 704-651-4838
Deacons for September: Lisa Sherman, Gregg Walker
Greeters: Aida Marcial, Laura Hankins
Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, Michael Sladek, Eileen Howe
Media: Brian Hankins, Suzanne Lamorey, Renee Brown
Tabulators: Terry Raley Dennis, Karen Long
Refreshments: Faye Humphrey, Jim Humphrey
Recyclers: Suzanne Lamorey

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Kelly Gimlin & Renee Brown,
in the death of Kelly's mother, Anne Richardson
Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger,
Eileen Howe, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson,
Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Ashley & Baby Evelyn Kate Cregan
(Barbara Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Alice Huskins (Jared
Fischer), George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren), Joe Robinson (Bill &
Kim Tyler), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Anne Sherrill (Donna
Collins), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Beckye Neese Smith (Diane
Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West
(John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp), Elizabeth Wilson (Donna
Collins)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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