



## Silent Meditation

“On earth as in heaven' is a prayer, not a statement. It claims our hope for this world and for ourselves: there will be a time God's will or dream will be done not only in God's realm among cherubim and seraphim but on earth among principalities and powers as well. To pray does not mean to ask someone else to fulfill, instead of us, what we cannot bring forward. It means to cooperate with God.”

~Dorothee Soelle,

*On Earth as in Heaven: A Liberation Spirituality of Sharing*

## City Called Heaven

I am a po' pilgrim of sorrow,  
I'm in dis world alone,  
No hope have I for tomorrow,  
But I've started to make heav'n my home.

Sometimes I'm tossed and driven, Lord  
Sometimes I don't know where to roam,  
But I heard of a city called heav'n,  
And I've started to make heav'n my home.

“Faith is reason gone courageous.”

~Dr. Gardner C. Taylor

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**August 11, 2019**

Prelude

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

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

One: The Mighty One summons us from sunrise to sunset.

Many: **Out of perfect beauty, God shines forth.**

One: God calls to heaven and earth, "Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me."

Many: **The heavens declare the righteousness of God, judge of  
people and nations.**

One: The Living God calls us today to be people of justice and mercy.

Many: **Our worship is hollow if it focuses only on our own  
gratification.**

One: The Holy One asks that our words of hope become actions of  
peace.

Many: **Thanks be to God who challenges and calls us.**

One: Let our ministry together bring peace and justice.

Many: **Let our lives reflect God's love and mercy.**

\* Passing of the Peace

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

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*

“We Worship You, God”  
(stanzas 1,2,4,5)

- 1 We wor-ship you, God; your power and your love  
are bla-zoned a-broad, a-round, and a-bove:  
Our Shield and De-fend-er, the An-cient of Days,  
pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor, and gird-ed with praise.
  
- 2 We tell of your might, we sing of your grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose can-o-py space;  
Your char-iots of wrath the deep thun-der-clouds form,  
and broad is your path on the wings of the storm.
  
- 4 Your boun-ti-ful care, what tongue can re-cite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it de-scends to the plain,  
and sweet-ly dis-tills in the dew and the rain.
  
- 5 Frail chil-dren of dust, and fee-ble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
Your mer-cies how ten-der, how firm to the end,  
our Mak-er, De-fend-er, Re-deem-er, and Friend!

\* Hymn

"Everlasting God"  
*by Brenton Brown and Ken Riley*

**Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
Wait upon the Lord; We will wait upon the Lord**

**Our God, You reign forever; Our hope, our Strong Deliverer  
You are the everlasting God/ The everlasting God  
You do not faint/ You won't grow weary**

**You are the everlasting God; The everlasting God  
You do not faint; You won't grow weary**

**You're the defender of the weak;/ You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles**

Children's Message

Fred Robinson

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

\* Gospel Reading

Luke 12:32-40

Joy Johnson

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

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

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

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing  
My great Re-deem-er’s praise,  
The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing  
The tri-umphs of God’s grace!
  
2. My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God,  
As-sist me to pro-claim,  
To spread through all the earth a-broad  
The hon-ors of your name.
  
3. Je-sus! the name that clams our fears,  
That bids our sor-rows cease  
Is mu-sic in the sin-ner’s ears,  
Is life, and health, and peace!
  
4. Glo-ry to God, and love and praise  
Be ev-er, ev-er given  
By all the saints in ev-ery age,  
The church in earth and heaven.

Pastoral Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 11:1-3; 8-16

Nancy Ellett Allison

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible... By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them.

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

“I Heard of a City Called Heaven”

Fred Robinson

Offertory Invitation

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offering Music

Kathleen Smith

\* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

☩ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above all heavenly hosts,  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* Offertory Dedication

Nancy Ellett Allison

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 shadows 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)*

Expressing our Gratitude

Martha Bomely

\* Benediction

Fred Robinson

\* Benediction Response

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 ever more.

Postlude

Kathleen Smith

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

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

### PLEASE SIGN OUR ATTENDANCE REGISTER

**WELCOME** to all who worship today at Holy Covenant! Guests and members, please sign an attendance register and then pass it back to its starting point, taking note of who is worshipping near you and greet them.

### OUR SAFETY PLAN & SAFETY TEAM

Last Sunday, you may have noticed that a few folks were wearing name tags with a red "Safety Team" ribbon attached to the bottom. These are



**SAFETY TEAM**

the folks who will assist and direct you to the nearest exit or shelter-in-place location in the event of an emergency such as fire, gas leak, bomb threat, tornado warning, etc. **Parents**, please note that your children will be escorted out of the building first and taken to the Memorial Garden (or back up location, the cell tower). You will meet them there. The Safety Team members have specific duties as described in the Safety Plan (copies available in the gathering room or in our weekly e-news letter). Please talk to any Safety Team member if you have any questions, and remember, we don't expect any of these things to happen, but it's better to be prepared. ~Cheryl Milam, Consistory President

### 2019 CHARLOTTE PRIDE INTERFAITH SERVICE, TONIGHT 4-6PM

Caldwell Presbyterian Church, 1609 E 5th Street, Charlotte.

Golden Anniversary of Stonewall, a Jubilee of celebration of accomplishment

### VOLUNTEER AT CHARLOTTE PRIDE, AUGUST 17 & 18

Show your ONA Pride of Holy Covenant UCC at this year's Charlotte Pride Event! Volunteers are needed for the booth on Saturday and Sunday, and to ride the float on Sunday during the parade. Signup sheets are in the Gathering Room. **Following worship today**, all interested participants please meet in the conference room for maps, schedules, etc. Contact Bob Saylor if you can volunteer [bchs3201@aol.com](mailto:bchs3201@aol.com) or 704-239-7342.

## **MISSIONS & JUSTICE'S MIGRANT BUS MINISTRY 2.0!**

We are handing out pre-made “goodie bags” for adults and children in the parking lot of the bus station rather than offering tables full of different items inside the station. *Contributions welcomed include:*

White medium-sized unisex socks; stuffed animals (small but huggable size); coloring books & crayons; small bottles of hand sanitizer; canned tuna salad or chicken salad and crackers (AKA “snack on the run”); and pudding snacks. *Clothing donations will take a break for now.*

## **HCUCC/SPCC BOOK CLUB**

Join us for great discussions and fellowship at SouthPark Christian Church at 10:30 am. 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte

September 11 - Woman of Troublesome Creek by Michele Richardson - discussion leader Diane Burleson; October 9 (date may change if author is available to join us)- Reboot by Alan Mulak - discussion leader Jon Heaslet

## **REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP - KEEP IT SIMPLE!**

You can use the link below to sign up, and you can still sign up on paper if you prefer. <https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks2019>

## **UCC LEADERS CALL FOR ACTION TO END GUN VIOLENCE**

On the heels of two mass murders being committed in a little over 13 hours, United Church of Christ leaders issued a call to action, urging churches and people of faith to make gun violence prevention a prominent campaign issue, while offering prayers for victims, their families, and their communities. John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President, spoke out against white supremacist rhetoric, asking everyone to **take action** by urging your U.S. Senators to act immediately on pending gun violence legislation. In the wake of yet another mass shooting, it is easy to feel powerless and difficult to see how one person might make a difference. More on this is included in our weekly e-news.

## **VISIONS, VOICES, ACTIONS: People of Faith for Creation Care**

**How do we respond?**

Sponsored by GreenFaith, August 13, 12-1:30 pm Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 5141 Sharon Road RSVP [amy@greenfaith.org](mailto:amy@greenfaith.org)

Co-sponsored by the Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice and the Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation

**WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:**  
Elder for August: Kathi Smith, [kathleenie53@msn.com](mailto:kathleenie53@msn.com) or 704-614-7674  
Deacons for August: Cheri Dennis, Jim Hong  
Greeters: Kathy Habel, Lisa Sherman  
Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Lorraine Edwards, Jim Hong, Bob Saylor  
Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger  
Tabulators: Micki Spear, Terry Raley-Dennis  
Refreshments: Nishi Griffin, JP Griffin  
Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Members**

Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Mamie Stokes

**Friends & Family Members**

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Chris Huckleberry (Robert Shepherd), Marilyn Lafferty (Kim Tyler), Bob Lyons (Melissa Noll), Amy Madden (Robert Shepherd), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jack Ross (Anne Findlay-Chamberlain), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Irene Sharpe (Robert Shepherd), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), John Teague (Donna Collins), Dorothy Underwood (Keith & Cheri Dennis), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

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