



THE OLIN T. BINKLEY MEMORIAL
BAPTIST CHURCH
WORSHIP

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Communion
July 6, 2008

BECOMING AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Mothers for miles around worried about Zuckerman's swing. They feared some child would fall off. But no child ever did. Children almost always hang onto things tighter than their parents think they will.

Charlotte's Web, by E.B. White

PRELUDE

Introduction and Toccata

G. Frescobaldi

PRAISING

INTROIT

Strong, Gentle Children

Damon

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Margot Cook, Claire Keller

LEADER: Tell me a story.

PEOPLE: **A story of where we are, and how we got here, and the characters and roles that we play.**

LEADER: Tell me a story.

PEOPLE: **A story that will be my story as well as the story of everything around me, a story that brings us together in a valley of community, a story that brings together the human family with every living being in the valley.**

LEADER: Tell me a story.

PEOPLE: **A story that brings us together under the arc of the great blue sky in the day and the starry heavens at night, a story that will drench us with rain and dry us in the wind.**

LEADER: Tell me a story.

PEOPLE: **A story told by humans to one another, a story that the wood thrush sings in the thicket and the river recites in its downward journey.**

LEADER: We come to share our stories, grateful for the Surrounding Spirit which draws us together in songs of joy.

* HYMN **Morning Has Broken** 53

*INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER (forgive us our sins) Beth Honeycutt

MUSIC INTERLUDE

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE Denise Cumbee Long
Please exchange the Peace of God with your neighbor

CENTERING (For silent reflection)

The rocks were among my first teachers. From them I have learned how to sit and be still. Once I did this, I began to notice everything around me in a new way. An oak tree taught me the difference one life can make. I saw how this oak and its brethren warmed the cold winter and made the summer's heat more pleasant; how the forest animals came to the tree for shelter, food and comfort. Since then I have tried to live for others.
(From **Listening to Nature** by Joseph Cornell.)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

LISTENING

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 104: 1-13 754
Lynn Marshall
ANTHEM **Beautiful Savior** arr. Christiansen

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 15: 1-5 Len Keller

* HYMN **Come and Find the Quiet Center** 575

SERMON "The Inner Life of the Child in Nature" Lori Cahill

RESPONDING

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Dale Osborne

Sharing the Blessing of Bread and Cup

*AFFIRMATION OF INTENTION (Unison) *The Binkley Church Covenant*

Professing our faith in Jesus Christ, we covenant with God and one another to live together as members of this church in obedience to God's will as it has been and shall be made known to us. As part of the body of Christ throughout the world, we promise to express our faithfulness to Christ in love for one another and for the whole of God's creation. The Spirit of God assisting us, we further promise to attend the services of this congregation, observe its sacraments, support its mission to all people, practice faithful stewardship of our possessions and be conscientious caretakers of the Earth, endeavoring always to be a fruitful body of Christians.

PRESENTING TO GOD OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Offertory **'Adagio' from the Easter Oratorio** J.S. Bach
Blair Tindall, Oboe

*Doxology

You are invited to sign the Doxology, to praise God with your body as well as your voice and mind. Please sign along with the leader, or simply sing the Doxology.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

ENDING WORSHIP AND BEGINNING SERVICE

SHARING THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*INVITATIONAL HYMN **One Bread, One Body** 393

If you wish to become a member of this congregation of the Body of Christ today, you are invited to come forward during the first verse of this hymn to be welcomed and received.

* BENEDECTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE **Strong, Knowing Children** Damon

POSTLUDE **Postlude on Two American Folk Hymns** Charles Callahan

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

#Those arriving after the Prelude may be seated at these times.

Persons wishing for assistance with hearing during the worship service are encouraged to check out an FM receiver in the Narthex just before the service begins.

The flowers on the communion table today are provided by Dale and Suzy Osborne in celebration of their 24th wedding anniversary on July 7.

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Holy Communion is a sacred and central part of Christian worship. It is a holy act, in which we, individually and corporately, commune with the Loving God. We welcome all who desire a deepened relationship with Christ to the Communion table.

From time to time, questions arise concerning the participation of young children in this congregation's service of Holy Communion. The Diaconate recognizes that two historic Baptist principles inform this decision. Baptists are set apart from many other Christian traditions by our practice of Believer's Baptism, which signifies full membership in the church. Traditionally, many Baptist churches encourage persons to receive the Communion bread and cup for the first time after they have been baptized. At the same time, our historic insistence on Soul Liberty reminds us that Baptists value and respect each believer's unique and personal relationship with God. The Diaconate thus recommends that all members of Binkley continue to deepen their understanding of the meaning of Holy Communion, and that families enter into a time of discernment concerning when their children are able to appreciate the sacred nature of Communion. We affirm the responsibility of all believers to determine whether and when they and their children will partake of the Communion elements as we all participate in the service of Communion.

The Discretionary Fund

On Communion Sundays you are invited to make a special offering to the Discretionary Fund, used to respond to emergency personal situations in the community. Earmark any checks "Discretionary Fund" in the item section. Envelopes are available in the chair racks.