

A Still Small Voice Writing Project

Commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Kensington Community Church with a compilation of Mountaintop Moments from the congregation.

It is in the smaller moments that we

- ~ Listen to the Still Small Voice (1 Kings 19), or
- ~ Feel the Guidance of the Holy Spirit, or
- ~ Feel the Hand of God leading us, or
- ~ Feel a sense of the spiritual Peace that surpasses all understanding, or
- ~ Have a mystical experience, or a spiritual experience.



The Ministry of Worship and Nurture (MWN) is compiling a book of congregant stories for the 90th anniversary of KCC. The vision of this book is to give you a safe place to share your Mountaintop Moments—the pivotal moments and the still moments when you hear the small, often quiet voice of Spirit and of God.

To guide you, you will receive three themes to aid you in finding the “thin places” as they are called in the Celtic traditions. We hope you enjoy and perhaps even feel inspired by the themes, *Angels in our Lives*, *Animals Bring us Closer to God*, and *Feeling God’s Presence in San Diego*.

For each theme you are guided through a series of images. After you review the images, you are invited to use the writing prompts to aid you in describing moments when you felt the presence of God. If you have a story to share, MWN would love to add it to the 90th anniversary book.

What are your stories of rejoicing in our diversity, rejoicing in all different ways that you hear/see/ feel/experience God, Spirit, Holy Spirit, Divine Presence, Spirit of Guidance, the Power of Love?

Please submit written Still Small Voice moments for inclusion in the 90th anniversary book to Barbara Runco (barbara@kensingtonucc.com).

Please submit your experience by August 18th.

If you have questions about the project, please ask Louise Jacobus, Robert Farrell, Jay Trischman, Kay-Marie Moreno and Sharon Young, who are also members of the Ministry of Worship and Nurture.

Theme 1: What are Angels?

This theme was originally developed for the 1st through 6th graders to encourage them to consider how God floats through their lives. It was changed slightly to encourage youth, adults, and biological and chosen families to participate in the Still Small Voice Writing Project.

You are invited to read this in a safe place—with others or on your own. When reading this on your own, it might be helpful to read each sentence aloud. When you are reading, take your time, breathe, read slowly and allow your mind to wander into the soupy, fluid space where subconscious meets conscious, where dreams meet “reality” and most of all, enjoy the journey.

What are angels?

Do they have wings? Do they have to have wings?

Are they protective or healing?

Take a moment to consider each of these questions.

There are no “right” answers.

We find them in the Bible, depicted in art and

even in toys and games.

Angels in the Bible



Matthew 2 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph^[b] got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”



The Resurrection of Jesus



Matthew 28:1-10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Resurrection of Jesus

28 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he^[a] lay.⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead,^[b] and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”⁸

Angels are depicted in statues and paintings.













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Art: Ian Wilson

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We even find angel imagery in toys and games.



Shedinja in Pokémon

It is based on the shed husk that cicadas leave behind when they finish their metamorphosis into adults. Concerning its species' ninja theme, it also appears to be a reference to the fabled ninjutsu technique 空蝉 *utsusemi*, where a ninja uses a dummy or replica of itself to evade and escape from threats, and where its namesake also alludes to the cast off shed husk of a cicada. It may also be based on a guardian angel, due to the halo-like object floating above its head. Its Ability Wonder Guard probably alludes to this.

Now close your eyes and take several deep breaths.

Please try not to judge your thoughts.

In the following pages we offer you ways to open your thoughts and your heart. Try reading and responding to a couple of the questions and prompts. If they don't speak to you, that's okay. Just move on without judgement.

Thank you for putting your time and effort into this project.

When you think of an angel in your life...

Is it a person or animal that is alive?

Is it a person or animal who passed away?

Is it a being who never lived on earth?

In what ways does this being remind you of love, God, healing, guidance, and/or protection?

Or, do they remind you of something else? What is it?

Writing Prompt: Angels

When I think of angels, I think of _____

This person/being/animal/etc reminds me of God/love/healing/guidance/protection/something else when

- I Need _____

- I Feel _____

How does this person/being/animal/etc. help you, bring you joy, or help you solve something?

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Project Inspirations

Inspiration from Congregants

The spark for sharing Mountaintop Moments in spoken and written form was a suggestion from Louise Jacobus. She honors your story even if it is difficult to describe. She recognizes that no one is “less than” if they don’t have a story to share. Louise emphasizes that this is not a place for one-upmanship. It is a place to celebrate and support you and your story if you are willing, if you can put it into words.

Inspiration from the Bible

Another inspiration for the Mountaintop Moment spoken and written project is from God’s Revelation to Elijah, 1 Kings 19:11-13 (NKJV),

Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, *but* the Lord *was* not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, *but* the Lord *was* not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, *but* the Lord *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

So it was, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice *came* to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

This version of the passage illustrates the “thin places” while speaking to the heart of this project and inspiring its title.

Our Inspiring Stories Align with the Stillspeaking Campaign

This KCC congregational project aligns with an on-going United Church of Christ campaign. **Stillspeaking**, the title of the campaign is the shorter form for, "God is still speaking." The UCC campaign, "reminds us that God still has a lot more to say. Since 2004, Stillspeaking has worked with thousands of UCC churches and individuals across the country to make religion relevant again and to extend an extravagant welcome to all—**because no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here. Here at the United Church of Christ.**" [Click here](#) to learn more about the Stillspeaking Campaign.