



"But the stranger that dwells with you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you also were once strangers"
~Leviticus 19:34

"Do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor and let none devise evil against another in his heart."
~Zechariah 7:10

"Hope is not the same as optimism. Optimism adopts the role of the spectator who surveys the evidence in order to infer that things are going to get better... Hope enacts the stance of the participant who actively struggles against the evidence in order to change the deadly tides of wealth inequality, group xenophobia, and personal despair. Only a new wave of vision, courage, and hope can keep us sane – and preserve the decency and dignity requisite to revitalize our organizational energy for the work to be done."
~ Cornel West

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 19, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

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.)*

* Call to Worship

Barbara Schneller

One: Come, all who need help.

Many: Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.

One: Come, all who desire blessing.

Many: Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of the ages.

One: Come, all who long for salvation.

All: Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.

* Passing of the Peace

One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of God's peace, for the peace of Christ is here to stay.

Many: Thanks be to God.

** All rise in body or spirit ☩ Sing Response ☩ Seating by Ushers*

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim;
Let all a-dore and praise that sa-cred name.

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Sav-ior trod,
the Lamb vic-to-rious, Christ the Child of God.

Refrain:

2. Each new-born ser-vant of the Cru-ci-fied
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.

Refrain:

3. O Christ, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree,
your death has brought us life e-ter-nal-ly.

Refrain:

4. Set up your throne, that earth’s de-spair may cease,
be-neath the shad-ow of its heal-ing peace.

Refrain:

5. So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be:
praise to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry.

Refrain:

“Oceans”

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*)

Children's Offering & Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Call to Prayer

“Return to God”
(Congregation sings twice)

Marty Haugen

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the
Source of grace and mer - cy; come seek the ten - der
faith - ful - ness of God.

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God." The final note of the melody is a whole note G4, which is held over the end of the line.

Call to Confession

Steven Burleson

Come all who thirst for Living Water from the well-spring that is God's love. Come and speak to the One who can tell us everything we have ever done.

Silent Prayers

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Steven Burleson

We confess in this day:

When we meet someone in trouble we do not sit and listen with understanding and patience; When we experience injustice, we seldom speak out and stand up for the weak and downtrodden; When we worship we fail to remember that God is Spirit and that we must worship in spirit and in truth. We are grateful for the invitation to drink the water of eternal life. May we drink in Your presence in this time and in this place.

The Lord's Prayer (*feel free to use alternate "Our Father who art..."*)
Our God in whom is heaven, hallowed be your name....

Assurance of Pardon

Steven Burleson

One: As our sins are cast away, releasing their hold over our lives, before God and you who are near me, I release anything I hold against you; I regret all I have done to harm you; I stand beside the wrong in my life and ask God's forgiveness.

Many: As our sins are cast away, releasing their hold over our lives, before God and you who are near, we release anything we hold against one another; we regret all the harm we have done; we stand beside the wrong in our lives and ask God's forgiveness.

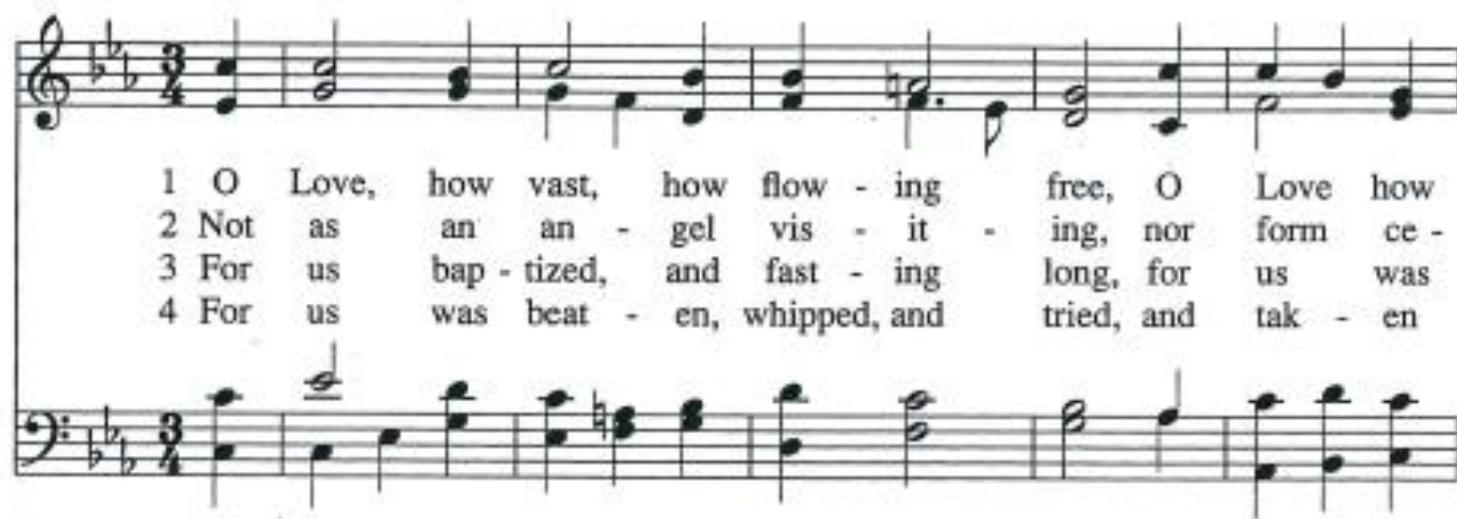
One: Jesus says to us, each one: "Go and sin no more, come and follow me."

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Hymn 209

“O Love How Vast, How Flowing Free”
(Verses 1, 3, and 4)

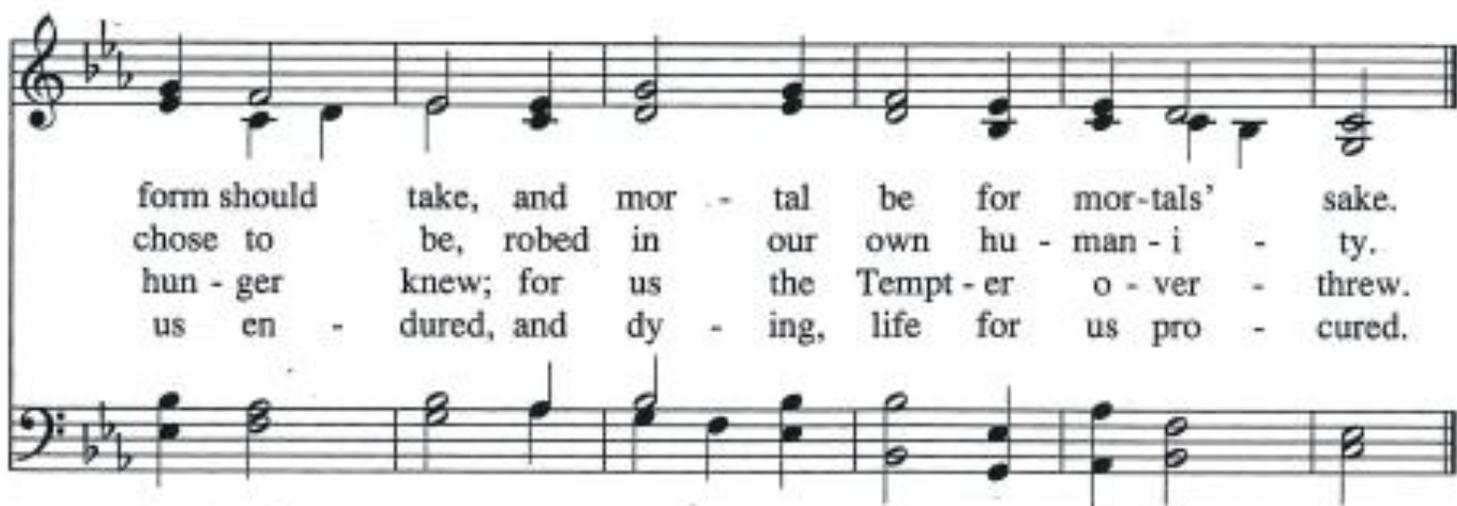
DEO GRACIAS



1 O Love, how vast, how flow - ing free, O Love how
2 Not as an an - gel vis - it - ing, nor form ce -
3 For us bap - tized, and fast - ing long, for us was
4 For us was beat - en, whipped, and tried, and tak - en



filled with ec - sta - sy, That God a hu - man
les - tial or - bit - ing, But born in flesh God
tempt - ed by the wrong, For us the pangs of
to be cru - ci - fied, So Love all this for



form should take, and mor - tal be for mor - tals' sake.
chose to be, robed in our own hu - man - i - ty.
hun - ger knew; for us the Tempt - er o - ver - threw.
us en - dured, and dy - ing, life for us pro - cured.

* Gospel Lesson

John 4: 5-42

Kristin Andes, Steven Burleson

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, ‘Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John’— although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink’. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’

Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now

here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.’

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

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	“Transcending Boundaries”	Nancy Ellett Allison
One Great Hour of Sharing		Kristin Andes
Offertory Invitation		Kristin Andes
Offering Music		
* Doxology 776		OLD HUNDREDTH
<p>φ Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Spirit, creatures here below. Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts; Praise God, the Source of all our gifts! Amen.</p>		
* Offertory Dedication		Kristin Andes

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad-owed
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the

cries of clan and race, A - bove the noise of self - ish
 thresh-olds framed with fears, From paths where hide the lures of
 griefs and bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'
 fresh - ness of your grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to

strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.
 greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 stress, we know your heart does not re - coil.
 view the deep com - pas - sion of your face.

5 O Sav-ior, from
 the moun-tain-side,
 Make haste to heal
 these hearts of pain;
 A-mong these rest-less
 throngs a-bide,
 O tread the cit-y's streets a-gain:

6 Till all shall learn
 com-pas-sion's might,
 And fol-low where
 your feet have trod,
 Till glo-rious from
 your realm of light,
 Shall come the cit-y of our God.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison
Spiritual

“Guide My Feet”

φ Guide my feet while I run this race;
For I don't want to run this race in vain. (3x)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "1. Guide my feet while I run this race. Guide my feet while I run this race. Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain)". The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. Chord symbols are provided above the vocal line: Ab, Ab, Ab, Db/Ab, Ab, Ab, Ab, Ab/Eb, Eb7, Ab, Ab/C, Ab, Ab, Ab, Db/Ab, Ab, Fm, Ab/Eb, Ab/Eb, Db/Eb, Ab, Db/Ab, Ab.

Postlude

Jared Fischer

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.

DEBT REFINANCING OPPORTUNITY

With our commitment to refinance our loan and make a substantial down payment of our principal amount owed to the bank we can soon be debt free. Consistory members have already pledged \$12,725.00 or 15% of our ideal goal. Can YOU help us match (or even better exceed) this amount?

If you can make a gift today - please do!

Write Debt Reduction in the Memo line of a check.

If you want to make a pledge-please do so by April 1.

All monies must be received by Monday, May 1.

Mail or email confidential pledges for debt reduction to Dawn in the office: office@holycovenantucc.org. Questions may be directed to Martha Bomely, Budget Chair, MarthaB@HolyCovenantUCC.org or (704) 804-0640.

12x12 SERVE. STAND UP. SHARE.

Take action w Missions & Justice. We need to be heard; we need to act. M&J wants to know how the people of Holy Covenant are responding to the many issues facing our people and our society today.

- Volunteering to help with Building and Grounds for our clean earth emphasis.
- Calling the offices of our National Senators and Representative to make our voices heard about issues. Richard Burr: 202-224-3154. Thom Tillis: 202-224-6342. Each of us needs to find the number for our respective representatives in the House: house.gov/representatives/find/.
- Bring food to donate to the UNCC student pantry.





DIVING LESSONS, 2017 Lent Devotional Now Available

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE "TOWN HALL MEETING", MARCH 22

Join Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, our Southern Conference Executive Director, at Holy Covenant for a wide ranging conversation on the state of the union - our union as a denomination, state and nation.

All are invited to attend. Holy Covenant UCC will host on **March 22 at 7 PM.**

CREATION JUSTICE PATHWAYS IN NC, MARCH 25, 9 AM - 2:30 PM

Parkway United Church of Christ, 2151 Silas Creek Parkway, W-Salem. Please RSVP interest for carpooling to **Diane Rogers, diane@cpmcraftsman.com.**

BORN ON THIRD BASE? MARCH 26, 12:30 POTLUCK & DIALOGUE

Anne VanNewkirk, a leader with Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, will help us think together what it means to be a person of privilege. If we are to increase our understanding of racial equity, we have to understand the hidden ways some groups are advantaged over others. This will be an engaging time of discovery and discernment! Bring a dish to share and continue our Lenten Journey.

HCUCC ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT, APRIL 16

Kids of all ages are welcome to join in the hunt following worship! Bring your own basket for collecting. **ALL MEMBERS:** Filled eggs and treats needed. Bring in 1-2 dozen plastic eggs filled with goodies. Short on time? Donations are welcomed and we'll fill them for you. **Drop off by April 9**, in the Gathering Room or Nursery with Caryn Capps. Please avoid chocolate and items that melt. Prizes are good treats also!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

On March 26, we will accept the One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering. Support this wonderful ministry that provides aid to health, education, refugee, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. Please use the OGHS envelopes or note your check "One Great Hour of Sharing" on the memo line.

BOOK CLUB, *MARCH 20*

Monday, March 20, at 11 am discussion of *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett will be lead by Karen Long. Monday, April 10, *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly, led by Faye Humphrey. We will meet at SouthPark Christian Church at 11:00 AM. Please join us.

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

Elder for March: Jeff Edwards-Knight, jeff763@aol.com or 704-651-4838

Recyclers: Lynn Chavarria

Greeters: Judi Lord, Donna Collins

Ushers: Kim Cobb, Scotty Foster, Barry Holcomb, Sue Pascucci

Media: Brian Hankins, Jim Hong, Keith Dennis, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Lori Cipot, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Tina Dickens, Linda Carver

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Diane Garvey, Steve Garvey, Jim Humphrey, Helen Lambert, Melissa Noll, Irene Mikkelson, Yami Senturias, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

The family of Mike Hinson (Kathi Smith)

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Erica Echeverri (Melissa Noll), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Kath Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Bill Funderburk, Sara Hamrick (Beth Sharp), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), Carrie McLelland (Joe McLelland), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Tommy Simpson, Cynthia Simpson, Christina Mary Smith (Kathi Smith), David Stoimenoff & Jim Germann, Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow)

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

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

Mr. Jared Fischer, Music Director

Mr. Steven Burleson, Youth & Young Adult Pastor

Mr. Gregg Walker, Ministry Intern

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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