



We are invited to go beyond the
minds that we have
to minds and hearts that are
shaped by the Spirit of God.

We are invited to go beyond the minds that we have—
minds dominated and blinded
by conventional categories,
identities, and preoccupations—
to minds and hearts centered in the Spirit,
alive to wonder,
alive to seeing,
alive to compassion.

We are invited to go beyond the minds that we have—
minds dominated by the ideologies
and preoccupations of individualism—
to minds and hearts
that see and hear the suffering caused by systemic injustice,
to minds alive to God's passion for justice.

All of this, it seems to me,
is what it means to take Jesus seriously.
The path of following Jesus is an invitation
to go beyond the minds
that we have.”

~ Marcus Borg

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

March 26, 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.)*

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Joy Johnson

One: Gracious God, we thank you for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.

Many: We thank you for creating our wonderful diversity of cultures.

One: Enrich our lives with ever-widening circles of fellowship;

Many: Show us your presence in those who differ most from us.

One: Take away the arrogance and hatred which infects our hearts.

Many: Break down the walls which separate us.

One: Help us to find that unity which is the fruit of righteousness.

Many: Enable us to become your beloved community.

One: Empower us to speak boldly for justice and truth;

Many: Help us deal with one another without hatred or bitterness.

One: May we work and worship together with mutual forbearance and respect.

All: May we accomplish your purposes in our lives and through this fellowship of faith.

* 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*

* Hymn

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

RESTORATION

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and power.

Refrain: I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God’s free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh. (*Refrain*)

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you’re better,
You will never come at all. (*Refrain*)

Let not conscience make you linger,
Not of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him. (*Refrain*)

“Us for Them”

When the lines are drawn, when you're in or out,
When it's us or them, and we shame the doubt,
It is all a lie, all we ever really need is love,
There's no need to shed more blood
Look upon the cross. Look upon the cross.

Chorus 1: See the face of Christ; see the mercy in His eyes,
Every valley shall be lifted high.
Now, our enemies are blessed, the heavy laden rest,
For His judgment is love, His judgment is love.

There is no more guilt, there is no more shame,
All our darkest sin, all our deepest pain.
Blessed are the poor, all the lonely, broken, lost, and torn;
See a kingdom comes to us.
A war that's fought with love, our only war is love.

Chorus 2: Prepare the way of the Lord, wielding mercy like a sword,
Every mountaintop will be made low.
Know, He holds the earth like dust,
And His judgment comes to us,
And His judgment is love, His judgment is love.

We will not fight their wars, we will not fall in line,
Cause if it's us or them, it's us for them.
We reject the either or, they can't define us anymore,
Cause if it's us or them, it's us for them. *Instrumental to Chorus 2*

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.)

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR TRANSGENDER JUSTICE

Call to Prayer

“Would You Harbor Me?”
by Ysaye M. Barnwell

Women’s Ensemble

Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?
Would you harbor a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew,
a heretic, convict or spy?
Would you harbor a runaway woman, or child,
a poet, a prophet, a king?
Would you harbor an exile, or a refugee,
a person living with AIDS?
Would you harbor a Tubman, a Garrett, a Truth,
a fugitive or a slave?
Would you harbor a Haitian, Korean or Czech,
a lesbian or a gay?
Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?

Call to Confession

Steven Burleson

May we harbor God and those of all identities in our hearts, in our homes. Open our eyes to see your presence among us, so we move beyond labels, beyond nationalities, beyond accents, gender, sexual orientation, or skin color. Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways—ways that will change and challenge us. Grant us the power and the courage to be your people in this place, welcoming all into the light of Jesus Christ.

Silent Prayers

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Steven Burleson

Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are. Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness. Soften the hearts of those who are causing suffering by clutching transphobia, racism, xenophobia so tightly.

Help us see others as you see them, and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us. We hold in love and prayer all who recognize the significance of gender justice for all people. We hold in love and prayer all transgender people, so many of whom live under the weight of violence, fear, and intolerance.

Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God, and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals your glory in all human flesh. Join our hearts, as together we pray “Our God in whom is heaven, hallowed be your name...”

The Lord’s Prayer (*using sins, sinners; may alternate* “Our Father who art...”)

Assurance of Pardon

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.

Hebrew Scripture Lesson 2 Samuel 11 Sally Duffy, Steven Burleson

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

“Monopoly Rules”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Steven Burleson

Offering Music

“Home to You”
by Arlos Darrel Smith and Sara Light

Women’s Ensemble

I've been trav'lin' this road for miles
Tryin' to get to where you are
I know you're tellin' me the way to go
but I just can't hear you over my heart.

Chorus: Give me grace to make it through the night
Give me faith so I can see the light
Give me strength so I can make it home to you.

My feet are tired of carry'n' this load
Seems like I'm walkin' 'round and 'round
I need somebody to help me out
'Cause I wanna be standin' on your holy ground.

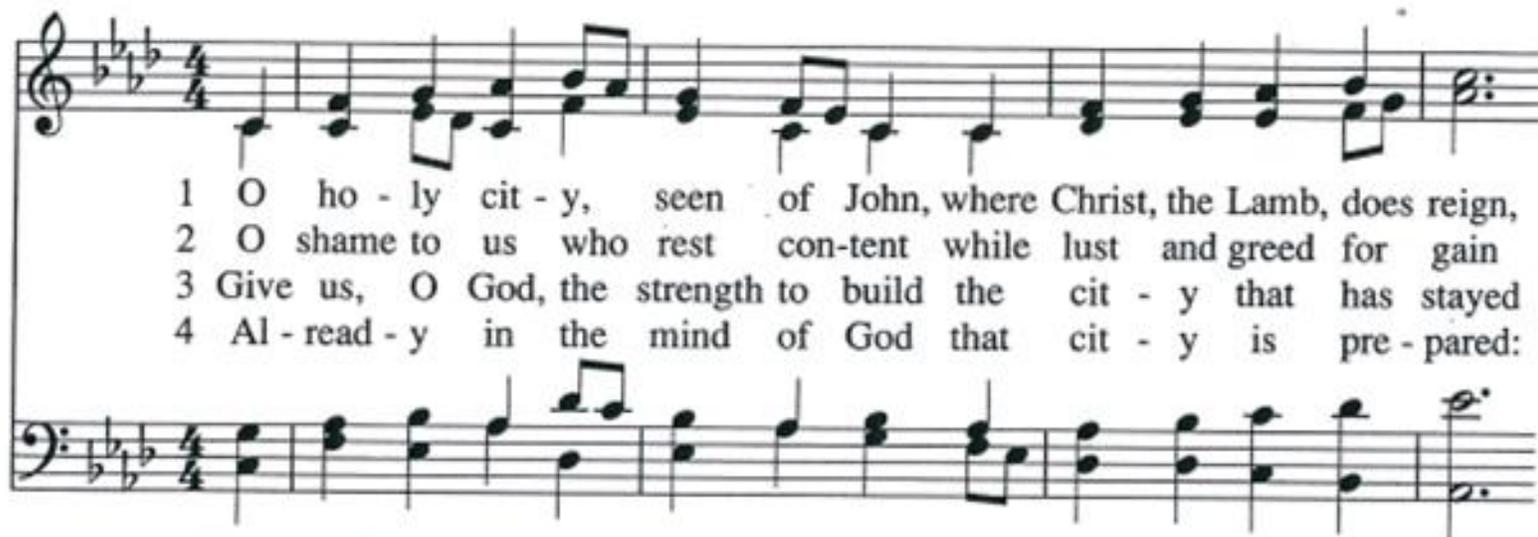
* Doxology 776

OLD HUNDREDTH

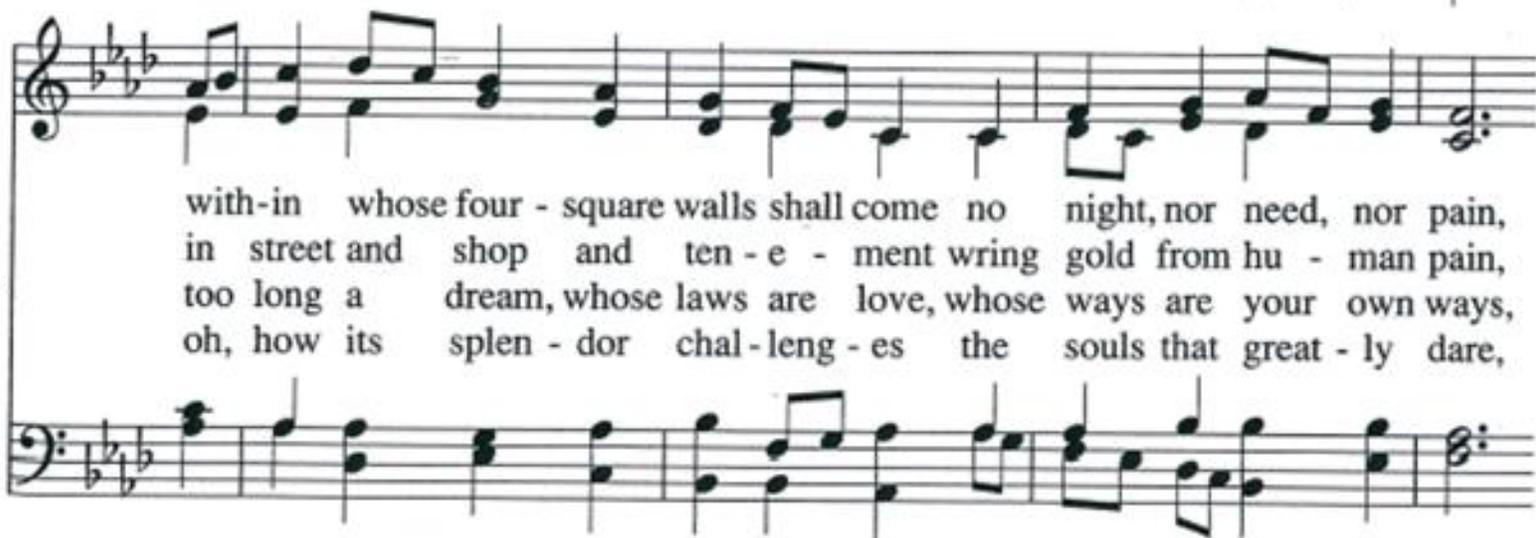
φ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Spirit, creatures here below.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts;
Praise God, the Source of all our gifts! Amen.**

* Offertory Dedication

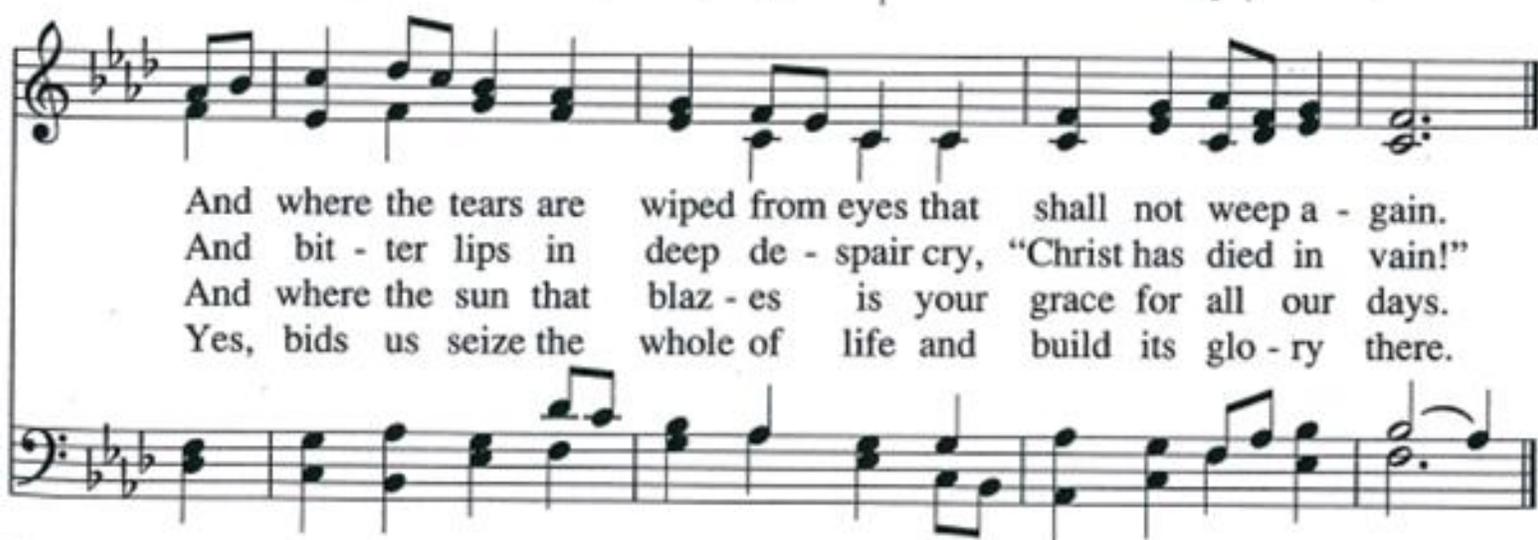
Steven Burleson



1 O ho - ly cit - y, seen of John, where Christ, the Lamb, does reign,
2 O shame to us who rest con - tent while lust and greed for gain
3 Give us, O God, the strength to build the cit - y that has stayed
4 Al - read - y in the mind of God that cit - y is pre - pared:



with - in whose four - square walls shall come no night, nor need, nor pain,
in street and shop and ten - e - ment wring gold from hu - man pain,
too long a dream, whose laws are love, whose ways are your own ways,
oh, how its splen - dor chal - leng - es the souls that great - ly dare,



And where the tears are wiped from eyes that shall not weep a - gain.
And bit - ter lips in deep de - spair cry, “Christ has died in vain!”
And where the sun that blaz - es is your grace for all our days.
Yes, bids us seize the whole of life and build its glo - ry there.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

☞ **Guide my feet while I run this race;
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

Postlude

Jared Fischer



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM & PASSION SUNDAY, APRIL 9

As we journey through the final week of Jesus' life, we will examine the ways he lived out and modeled non-violent resistance as the spiritually powerful way to undermine the ruling "powers."

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 6:30 PM

Join us for our Maundy Thursday supper and shared communion around the tables at 6:30 PM.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES, APRIL 16

BRING FRESH FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS

8:00 AM WORSHIP

Join us for a brief and joyful worship and communion in the Memorial Garden (weather permitting).

10:55 AM WORSHIP

Through Song and Word, we will celebrate the joy of the resurrection and new life. Special music will feature the Women's Ensemble, the Music Cooperative, vocalists and instrumentalists

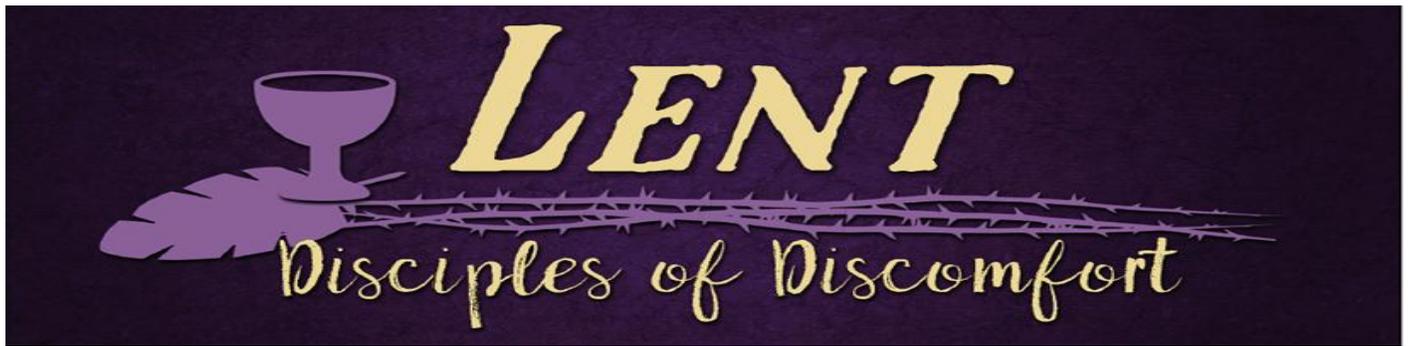
BRING YOUR EGGS BY APRIL 9 FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT

For this year's Easter Egg Hunt we are asking folks to bring 1-2 dozen plastic eggs with goodies (no chocolate please). There is a drop box the gathering room to leave your filled eggs. If you can help, contact Caryn Capps in the Nursery.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Egg Hunt with separate search sites for our older and younger children will follow our 10:55 worship service.





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.

BORN ON THIRD BASE? POTLUCK & DIALOGUE TODAY

Join us after worship for a potluck lunch and dialogue with guest Anne Van Newkirk, a leader with Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, will help us think together what it means to be a person of privilege.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Today 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 on your check "One Great Hour of Sharing" on the memo line.

12x12 SERVE. STAND UP. SHARE.

Take action with 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. Write your mission, drop it in the basket in the Gathering Room and M&J will track them as the year goes along.

- 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.
- Bring food to contact to the UNCC student pantry.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Sara Hamrick (Beth Sharp), 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 Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Cynthia Simpson, Tommy Simpson, 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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