



Silent Meditation

God's very being is mercy.

The mercy of God lies in God's readiness to share in sympathy the distress of another, a readiness which springs from God's inmost nature and stamps all God's being and doing.... And this, of course, is why we are able to face, acknowledge, accept and live through suffering, for we know that it can never be ultimate, it can never constitute the bottom line.

God is at the foundation and God is at the boundaries.

~ Eugene Peterson

**Jesus) calls us... "to ruin our lives, to break our hearts,
to love the wrong person and to die."**

**We are invited to ruin the old life of silence, to break our hearts with
compassion over suffering,
to love the wrong person—that would be Jesus—and to die.**

**As (was) said to me last week, "to get resurrected ya gotta get dead."
Because we know, from Jesus's example, and from our own lives, what
lies on the other side of that death. The other side of silence and
distraction, of the deadly life of business as usual, is new life,
resurrected life, born of compassion - awake and broken-hearted, and,
yes, dangerous. Take up your cross. Amen**

~ Nora Gallagher

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PALM AND PASSION SUNDAY**

APRIL 9, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Room Assembly

(We will begin worship in the Gathering Room and process together into the sanctuary, carrying our palms forward and placing them at the altar.)

* Call to Worship

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Living God!

Many: **Hosanna to the Son of David!**

One: Humble and riding on a donkey,

Many: **We greet you; Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children,

Many: **We cheer you; Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,

All: **We salute you: Hosanna in the highest! Christ our Lord!**

* Processional Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

ST. THEODULPH

David A. Smith, trumpet

*Refrain: All glory, laud and honor to you, O Christ we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

O promised One of Israel, of David's royal line, the one called
“God’s beloved,” of flesh and yet divine. *Refrain*

The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain*

To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*

As you received their praises; receive our prayers today,
Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway. *Refrain*

The company of angels is praising you on high,
And we with all creation in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

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

Welcome and Announcements

Nancy Ellett Allison

(Please pass the information pads so that all worshippers might have the opportunity to sign them)

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.)

Prayer of Confession

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: The worshiping crowds wanted a forceful leader.

Many: We continue to place our trust in force and warriors and weaponry.

One: The people wanted a political solution where Jesus would use power to establish control.

Many: We too trust more in power than peace and nonviolence.

One: The Hebrews identified their oppressors as evil.

Many: Though we know better, we too are inclined to divide the world into good and evil people.

One: Gracious Jesus, may we catch a glimpse of your humility on this Palm Sunday; do not pass us by but stay and invade the inward citadels of our souls with your ways of peace and justice.

All: Correct us where we go astray. Assist us with the impossible human task of loving the unlovable which includes our enemies. Help us learn how to transcend the differences we have and acquire the art of reconciliation and forgiveness. Let your mind be within us, bring peace to our souls, O Prince of Peace.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Grace

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: Christ came riding a donkey of humility and reconciliation, not a charging war horse of judgment. Through Christ's love and peace we are forgiven!

Many: Thanks be to God!

Offertory Invitation

Steven Burleson

Offertory Music

Jared Fischer

* Doxology 776

OLD HUNDREDTH

φ 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.

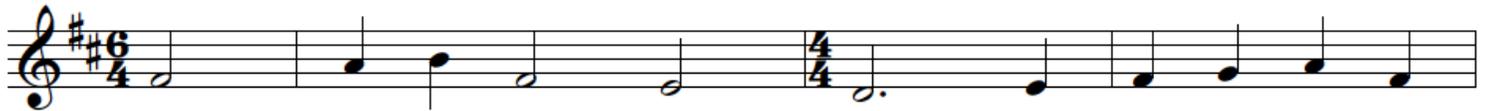
* Offertory Dedication

Steven Burleson

* Hymn

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

LOVE UNKNOWN



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 Christ left the ri - chest throne, sal - va - tion to bes -
 3 Some - times they strew His way, and His sweet prai - ses
 4 They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made aw -
 5 I sing my plain be - lief, no sto - ry so div -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might
 - stow, but hearts made strange and none the longed-for
 sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Hos - an - nas
 - way A mur - de - rer they save, The Prince of
 - ine: ne - ver was pain nor grief, ne - ver was



love - ly be. O who am I that
 Christ would know. But O my Friend, my
 to their King: then “Cru - ci - fy!” is
 Life they slay. Yet cheer - ful He to
 love like thine! This is my Friend, in



for my sake my God should take frail flesh and die?
 Friend in - deed, who at my need His life did spend.
 all their breath, and for His death they thirst and cry.
 Suf - f'ring goes, that He His foes from thence might free.
 whose sweet praise I all my life could glad - ly spend.

PASSION NARRATIVE

THE READERS

Nancy Ellett Allison, Michael Baldonado, Steven Burleson, Olivia Carney,
Cheryl Milam, Barbara Schneller, Lloyd Spencer, Gregg Walker

Lighting of the Passion Candles

FIRST MEDITATION

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

Luke 22:39-46

* Song of Reflection 223 “What Wondrous Love Is This” WONDROUS LOVE

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!
What won-drous love is this, O my soul!
What won-drous love is this! that Christ should come in bliss
to bear the heav-y cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy-ful be,
and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

Prayer

One: As we extinguish this light, may we acknowledge our lack of daily awareness of God's presence, and our inconsistency in being in the sacred moment.

(a candle is extinguished.) Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, as we journey with you, give us strength and courage to be alert and aware of the sacred. Open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.

SECOND MEDITATION

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Luke 22:47-54

Song of Reflection 219 "Journey to Gethsemane"
(stanzas 1 and 2)

REDHEAD NO. 76

- 1. Journey to Gethsemane, go and feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch the anguish of this hour;
Do not hide or turn away; Learn from Jesus how to pray.**
- 2. Follow then to Pilate's hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
Crowned with thorns and mocked by all, faithfully this pain sustained;
Greater still than shame or loss, Jesus now must face the cross.**

Prayer

One: As we extinguish this light, may we acknowledge the lack of peace on earth and the reality of darkness and pain, of prejudice, discrimination, and betrayal in the world.

(a candle is extinguished.) Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, give us eyes of compassion, ears of justice, hearts and hands of peace so that we may do your work in this world.
Amen.

THIRD MEDITATION

Peter Denies Jesus

Luke 22:54-62

Song of Reflection

“Drop, Drop, Slow Tears”
Holy Covenant Women’s Chorus

Orlando Gibbons

Prayer

One: As we extinguish this light, may we acknowledge the sin of deceit and denial, the pain of regret and sorrow in the world.

(a candle is extinguished.) Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. May our restless hearts continue to search until they find their rest in you. Amen.

FOURTH MEDITATION

The Mocking and Beating of Jesus

Luke 22:63-71

Song of Reflection 226

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

PASSION CHORALE

Prayer

One: As we extinguish this light, may we acknowledge the pain caused by the absence of basic needs - lack of food, shelter, education, healthcare, love.

(a candle is extinguished.) Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, we thank you for your loving presence in our lives. We trust your promise to work with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Empower us to do your will in meeting the needs of others. Amen.

FIFTH MEDITATION

Jesus Sentenced to Death

Luke 23:13-25

Song of Reflection 218

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Prayer

One: As we extinguish this light, may we acknowledge the descending darkness, the reality of evil and the pain all suffer when we lack the courage to resist evil and its deadly consequences.

(a candle is extinguished.) Let us pray.

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us each day. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, our selves, and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them and follow the way of Christ who embodied non-violence, compassion and love. Amen.

SIXTH MEDITATION

Jesus is Led to the Place of Crucifixion

Luke 23:26-31

Song of Reflection

“Via Dolorosa”

Sandi Patty

Jared Fischer, piano; Yasmin Senturias, soprano

Prayer

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the pain of so many women trapped by oppression and all the earth’s children who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

(a candle is extinguished.) Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, give us ears to hear the cries of the needy, and hearts able to respond with concern, comfort, and care. Amen.

SEVENTH MEDITATION

* The Crucifixion of Jesus

Luke 23:32-38

* Song of Reflection

“The Crucifixion”

Samuel Barber

Jared Fischer, piano; Laura Valles, soprano

* Prayer

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of violence in the world.

(a candle is extinguished.) Let us pray.

Many: Loving God, draw us together in your love. Give us strength and courage to resist the powers of evil in the world. Amen.

EIGHTH MEDITATION
The Death of Jesus

Luke 23:44-53

Song of Reflection

“O Vos Omnes” Tomas Luis de Victoria
Holy Covenant Women’s Chorus

O vos omnes – O ye people,
qui transitis per viam – who travel on the way,
attendite et videte – attend and see:
Si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus – If there be sorrow like my sorrow.
Attendite, universi populi – Attend, all ye people,
et videte dolorem meum – and see my sorrow:
Si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus – If there be sorrow like my sorrow

Prayer

One: As we extinguish the Christ light, may we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injustice in the world.

(a candle is extinguished.) Let us pray:

Many: **Loving God, what we contemplate in the death of Jesus is beyond words, beyond understanding. May the Holy Spirit intercede for us and give voice to what, for us, is inexpressible. Amen.**

*Hymn

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died;
My richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

Jared Fischer

Special Thanks to:

The Acolyte: Johanna Weber

The Readers: Michael Baldonado, Steven Burleson, Olivia Carney,
Cheryl Milam, Barbara Schneller, Lloyd Spencer, Gregg Walker

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis, Lisa Cloninger,

Visual Arts: Donna Collins, Tina Ettesen

Palms: Kathi Smith

Vocalists: Yasmin Senturias, Laura Valles

Holy Covenant Women's Chorus:

Soprano: Dorrie Hankins, Laura Valles; Alto: Donna Collins, Joy Decker, Cheri
Dennis, Laura Hankins, Beth Christian-Sharp

Holy Covenant Music Cooperative:

Micah Baldonado, Amy Coons, Benjamin Decker, Caroline Fischer, Jared
Fischer, Morgan Rush, David A. Smith, Michael Yonkovig

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

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.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

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 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.



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

Elder for April: Faye Humphrey, fghumphrey@yahoo.com or 704-618-2750

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

Greeters: Barbara Schneller, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barbara Schneller, Moses Taylor

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Rebecca & Steve MacNair-Semands

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Holly Middleton & Dawn Schmitz, in the death of Holly's brother, John Jacobsen; Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Jim Humphrey, Helen Lambert, Melissa Noll, Irene Mikkelson, Alice Phelan, Yami Senturias, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Bill Funderburk, Sara Hamrick (Beth Sharp), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), Carrie McLelland (Joe McLelland), Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Tommy Simpson, Cynthia Simpson, Christina Mary Smith (Kathi Smith), Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow)

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

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

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mr. Steven Burleson, Youth & Young Adult Pastor

Mr. Gregg Walker, Ministry Intern

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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