



Silent Meditation

Wanderer, there is no way; we make the road by walking it.

~ Antonio Machado

Human love, which gives existence its viability and purpose -- both our love of God and our love of neighbor -- is spontaneous, fragile and fleeting. Like the heavenly manna of the Exodus, love cannot be preserved and stored. We cannot manage it. We can only hope that it will be there for us when we most need it.

These ought not to be melancholy thoughts, any more than the two disciples should have lamented the vanishing of the risen Christ. We know that Christ's vanishing and the vanishing of every human moment and the self we are at every moment serve to underscore the utter preciousness of life.

This simply makes more glorious the mystery that this precious life which we presently experience as so poignantly fragile is, like the God who gives it, eternal.

~Ronald Goetz

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

April 30, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of Jesus, the man from Galilee, be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

*(Please pass the friendship pads so that all worshippers
have the opportunity to sign them)*

Opening Voluntary

* Call to Worship

Jocelyn Hughes

One: Christ is risen!

Many: **Christ is risen indeed!**

One: We do not come into this house cautiously with some vague hope in a kindly Divinity.

Many: **We come boldly in the name of Jesus Christ, whom “God raised from the dead and gave him glory, so that our faith and hope may be confident in God.”**

One: And in that confidence of love, we ask for mercy, Holy Friend, as you walk the road with us.

Many: **You walk with us as we offer our best and our worst, our enthusiasm and our waning, our courage and our cowardice, our cleverness and our stupidity.**

** All rise in body or spirit ☩ Sing Response ✕ Hymnals located below pews*

One: You listen to us as our faith fluctuates, our prayers falter, our arrogance grows and our timid hope diminishes.

Many: In one glance you see the love we have shared and the love we have withheld, the happiness we have spread and the pain we have caused. In one holy glance you know us.

One: As your glance encompasses us, we turn our criticizing minds and stunted affections towards you, seeking forgiveness, healing and encouragement.

Many: Thank you, Loving Friend that you are not put off by our checkered lives.

One: Holy God, we thank, praise and worship you for the beauty of your glance, and the persistence of your saving grace. With Christ as our sure guide, may we live to the glory of your name, now and evermore.

**Many: Our hearts are lifted up with the liberty of those who have been absolutely understood, forgiven, and restored.
Thanks be to God!**

*** Passing of the Peace**

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

1. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Hearts to heaven and voic-es raise;
Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
Je-sus on the cross as Sav-ior for the world’s sal-va-tion bled;
But the cru-ci-fied Re-deem-er now is ris-en from the dead!

2. Now the i-ron bars are bro-ken, Christ from death to life is born;
Glo-rious life, and life im-mor-tal on this ho-ly Eas-ter morn;
Christ has tri-umphed, and we con-quer by God’s lib-er-at-ing deed;
Now the Christ with us a-bid-ing to e-ter-nal life shall lead.

3. Christ is ris-en, we are ris-en; shed up-on us heav-en-ly grace,
Rain and dew, and gleams of glo-ry from the bright-ness of your
face;
That we, with our hearts in heav-en, here on earth may fruit-ful be,
And by an-gel hands be gath-ered, and be yours e-ter-nal-ly.

4. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Glo-ry to the God of joy;
Al-le-lu-ia to the Sav-ior who came death’s bonds to de-stroy;
Al-le-lu-ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti-ty;
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! To the Tri-une Maj-es-ty.

“Beautiful Things”

**All this pain, I wonder if I’ll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change at all.**

**All this earth, could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground at all?**

Chorus: **You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of the dust;
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us.**

**All around, hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos, life is being found in You. *Chorus***

You make me new, You are making me new...

Children’s Message & Offering

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Gift of Music

**“Concerto for Harp, HWV 294: Movement II”
*Hannah McGraw***

G.F. Handel

New Life Story

Barb Schneller

Lisa Cloninger, leader; Kathi Smith, piano

Response

Antiphon: Judy Hunnicutt, 1994

I will call on God as long as I live (as long as I live).

R

¹I love God, because God has heard my voice

and has heard my supplications.

²Because God inclined an ear to me, therefore I will call on God as long as I live. *R*

³The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴Then I called on the name of God: "O God, I pray, save my life!"

⁵Gracious is God, and righteous; our God is merciful.

⁶God protects the simple; when I was brought low, God saved me. *R*

⁷Return, O my soul, to your rest, for God has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸For you have delivered my soul from death, and my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

⁹I walk before God in the land of the living. *R*

¹²What shall I return to God for all God's bounty to me?

¹³I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of God,

¹⁴I will pay my vows to God, I will pay them in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵Precious in the sight of God is the death of God's faithful ones.

¹⁶O God, I am your servant, and the child of your servant. You have loosed my bonds.

* Hymn 526 “We are Walking in the Light of God”

**We are walking in the light of God... We are walking, walking...
We are walking in the light of God...
Si-ya-hamb eku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'... Siyahamb hamba...
Si-ya-hamb eku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'**

* Gospel Lesson Luke 24:13-35 Jim Hong, Steven Burleson

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”

He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about

himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

"We Had Hoped"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Sermon Response 887

"A New Creed"

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

Many: **We believe in God: who has created and is creating who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the spirit. We trust in God.**

One: We are called to be the church:

Many: **to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

One: In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

All: **We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

Offertory Invitation

Steven Burleson

Offering Music

Jared Fischer

* Offering Response

ROCKINGHAM



Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an



off - ring far too small. Love so amazing,



so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!

* Offertory Dedication

Steven Burleson

* Hymn 241

“Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”

PUER NOBIS NSCITUR

1 Joy dawned a - gain on Eas - ter Day, the sun shone
2 O Je - sus, Sav - ior, Gen - tle One, come take our
3 O Sov - ereign One, with us a - bide in this our

out with bright ar - ray; For when the A - pos - tles
hearts to be your own, That we may give you
joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; From ev - ery weap - on

hid in fear, the Ris - en Christ to them ap - peared.
all our days the will - ing trib - ute of our praise.
death can wield, your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

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.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC & REFI CELEBRATION FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Plan to stay following worship to enjoy hamburgers, black bean burgers and hot dogs with all the fixin's. Bring your pennies, quarters, etc. to drop in a gold fish bowl to give that one last little bit more to help with our Refi. We will celebrate the refinancing loan as we announce the final total - thanks so much for your generosity!

STORIES OF NEW LIFE

What is bringing you joy, energy and new life in this year? During the Easter Season, we would like for members to briefly share their story of new life with the congregation. If you are willing to do this, please contact Susan Bennett Stiles at susanbennettstiles@gmail.com.

HOLY COVENANT INVITES PROPOSALS-CREATE A NEW MINISTRY!

It's the perfect Easter story - a new ministry will soon blossom from the legacy planted by the faithful women and men of Pilgrim Congregational UCC. Holy Covenant has officially launched its invitation for proposals to build a new ministry in South Charlotte. Visit Holy Covenant's website for more details, or UnconventionalPilgrims.org/.

AIDS WALK CHARLOTTE 2017 - SATURDAY, MAY 6

We are asking for many from our church family to walk on our team this year. Go to aidswalkcharlotte.org to join, make a pledge or contact Bob Saylor at 704-239-7342 or Steven Burleson at 704-706-4170.

HOLY COVENANT UCC LUAU, MAY 7

May is National Luau Month! Wear your muumuu, sandals, and Hawaiian shirts. Brought to you by your Hospitality Team. Aloha!

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.

- HCUCC's *Upper Room Ministry*-can you join us for a meaningful time of prayer, bible study or conversation, with our neighbors at Urban Ministry Center? If so, please contact Phil Kaveler, pwkaveler@yahoo.com for times and dates.
- Support the Sunshine Fund- HCUCC's benevolence ministry to help members who are struggling with financial shortfalls. Please notate "Sunshine Fund" on your gift.
- Contact our US Senators and Representatives about healthcare, budget, etc. Richard Burr: 202-224-3154, Thom Tillis: 202-224-6342

PENTACOST CELEBRATION Do YOU speak another language?

Maybe you studied French, Latin, Greek or another language - or maybe you are or have family from another country? We would love you to participate in a short presentation for Pentecost - Sunday, June 4. Please contact Barry Holcomb, bholcomb002@gmail.com or 704-615-0418.

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

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

Elder for May: Kathleen Smith, kathleenie53@msn.com or 704-614-7674

Deacons for May: Lynn Chavarria, Sally Duffy

Recyclers: Linn Finger

Greeters: Laura Hankins, Aida Marcial

Ushers: Youth

Media: Brian Hankins, Jim Hong, Renee Brown

Tabulators: Debbie Davis, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Hospitality Team

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Lynn Helms & Laura Murphey in the death of Lynn's mother, Frances Helms; Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Jim Humphrey, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Alice Phelan, Yami Senturias, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Mary & Keith (Susan Bennett-Stiles), Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), 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), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, John Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Christina Mary Smith (Kathi Smith), Dan Strong (Robert Shepherd), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb)

Candid photographs and/or video recording share our work and witness and invite others into the fellowship of our congregation. Some pictures/video may be published in church print publications, on our website or on our official social media sites. If you do not wish to have your image published, please contact the church office by phone or email.

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

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

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mr. Steven Burlison, Youth & Young Adult Pastor

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