



Silent Meditation

Peace is not the product of terror or fear.
Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.
Peace is not the silent result of violent repression.
Peace is the generous, tranquil
contribution of all, to the good of all.
Peace is dynamism.
Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty.

~Archbishop Oscar Romero

*Peace always seems a weary way off.
As Jeremiah lamented,
'We looked for peace, but no peace came.'
But to give up on peace is to give up on God.*

~William Sloane Coffin

Revelation comes to those who are radically hospitable
to what they don't know.

~Rebecca Parker

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
A SEASON OF PEACE
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 10, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

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

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Jim Germann

One: In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

Many: We come to be inspired by stories of a Messiah who is changing the world—and changes us.

One: We come to listen for words of hope and peace, promise and challenge to sustain us through difficult days and trying times.

Many: We come to receive the blessings God has in store for us in this season of fierce waiting.

One: Come! Let us worship our God— the One who brings all things to fulfillment.

* Passing of the Peace

Jim Germann

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* ✕ *Hymnals located below pews*

1. Now bless the God of Is-ra-el,
who comes in love and power,
who rais-es from the roy-al house
de-liv-ernce in this hour.
Through ho-ly prophets God has sworn
to free us from a-larm,
to save us from the heav-y hand
of all who wish us harm.

2. Re-mem-ber-ing the cov-e-nant,
God res-cues us from fear,
that we might serve in hol-i-ness
and peace from year to year;
And you, my child, shall go be-fore
to preach, to proph-e-sy,
that all may know the ten-der love,
the grace of God most high.

3. In ten-der mer-cy, God will send
the day-spring from on high,
our ris-ing sun, the light of life
for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace,
that death shall reign no more.
Sing prais-es to the Ho-ly One!
O wor-ship and a-dore!

Lighting the Advent Candle

Lane and Nancy Lancaster

One: We lit the first advent candle as a symbol of our hope.

Many: **We light it again remembering the hope which will always be brought to birth in and through all creation.**

One: We light the second advent candle as a symbol of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent.

Many: **Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us or any seeking peace. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.**

One: Loving God, in this time of preparation, we thank you for the peace you unfailingly offer us. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

All: **Peace is a vision for our spirits and for the world. As we work to establish peace for all, may we know the peace of God within us. (*Lighting of the candles.*)**

Advent Carol

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Make eny, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.**

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.)

This is my wish, my wish for the world,
That peace would find it's way to every boy and girl.
This is the time, the time for harmony;
Let love be the song that everybody sings.

Fill the air with joyful noise; ring the bells and raise your voice.
Let there be peace on earth; let there be peace on earth.
Lift your light and let it shine - shine, shine, shine!
Let every voice be heard; let there be peace on earth.

I hear the sweetest sound, the sound of hope to come.
Together we can bring good will to everyone.
Let it start with you; let it start with me.
Let every nation arise and sing this melody.

Pastoral Prayer

Barbara Thomas

Prayer of St. Francis (*unison*)

**Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy;
and where there is darkness, light.
Grant that we may seek not so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive, in pardoning that we are
pardoned, and in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Hebrew Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Phil Kaveler

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare has ended; that her darkness has been removed that she has received from God's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Living God, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the

glory of God shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Holy One has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of God blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

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 "Peace, A Weary Way Off" Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation Barbara Thomas

Offertory Music "The Word" by Steve Schallert

The word, the word, the word / There has always been the word
But then the word took on flesh / Like a homeless baby in distress,
Jesus walked into the fray / To prove a reconciling way
The word, the word, the living, saving word

Oh my heart, my heart, my heart, / Like the sea that once did part
To keep the devils at bay, / From left to right it sways
Oh like a tired ocean wave, / All my heart now craves is
The word, the word, the living, saving word

Chorus: From darkness, to darkness, to darkness, to light
The word became flesh to bring dead things to life

Yet it's a groaning, groaning world / Even the trees are begging for
A new place to lay their roots / Where wars for oil will not destroy.
We know a peace that lasts beyond a day
A hope that's deep enough to stay the world, the world
The living, saving word. (*Chorus*)

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

φ To God all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.

* Hymn 101

“Comfort, Comfort O My People”

PSALM 42

1 “Com - fort, com - fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace,” thus says our God;
 2 For the her - ald’s voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!

Com - fort those whose hearts are shroud - ed, mourn - ing un - der sor - row’s load.
 Bid - ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes - si - ah’s ho - ly reign.

Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For God’s glo - ry ev - er - more shall be known o’er all the world;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Choral Benediction

“Dona Nobis Pacem”
(Grant Us Peace)

Congregation

Do - na no - bis pa - cem pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

*
Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

*
Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Dona Nobis Pacem" in 3/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff is the vocal line with lyrics: "Do - na no - bis pa - cem pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem." The second and third staves are marked with an asterisk and contain simplified versions of the melody for accompaniment. The lyrics for the second and third staves are: "Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem." and "Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem." respectively.

Postlude

Jared Fischer

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As we journey toward Joy on this Advent Sunday we will celebrate with a
LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE
Featuring the Chancel Choir

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As we journey toward Love on this Advent Sunday we will celebrate with a
Moravian Love Feast

CHRISTMAS EVE EVENTS

Christmas Eve Chili & Soup supper 5:30-6:30 pm
[Sign up in the Gathering Room, Vegetarian options!]
CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE at 7:30 pm

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.

ROOM IN THE INN, TODAY!

Thanks to all who have signed up! To complete our needs for this first neighbor hosting, we're in need of drivers to return neighbors to UMC Monday morning, cleanup crew for Monday (to be complete by 9am) and volunteers to help with laundry needs. Contact Suzanne Lamorey TODAY, suzlam@yahoo.com if you are able to assist.



JOIN THE HOLY COVENANT CHANCEL CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS MUSIC!

Rehearsals will be held each Sunday following worship from 12:30-2:30 with child care available, and on Thursday, December 14 from 7:00-9:00 PM. Please contact Jared Fischer at music@holycovenantucc.org if you would like to attend.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Join our children and their families in giving to fight world hunger. Heifer provides live animals to individuals and communities to help move them toward food security. Make you check payable to Holy Covenant and our children will help select the animals and flocks to be shared abroad.

ANGEL TREE

Thanks for such an amazing to response to our Angel Tree this year. Please return your unwrapped gifts with the Angel tag attached to the church by Sunday, December 17th. Questions? lisacmsw@hotmail.com.

A HOLIDAY LOVE OFFERING FOR THE HCUCC STAFF AND CLERGY

During this joyful time of year, we ask those of you who are able to consider contributing to a Holiday Love Offering for our HCUCC clergy and staff. The offering will be divided across all of our dedicated staff members. **Please give your gifts to Martha Bomely TODAY which will allow time to organize and distribute gifts on December 17.** Thank you for considering our church staff as you plan out your holiday giving plans. Electronic funds may be sent to martha.bomely@gmail.com through The ZelleSM Network.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS NOW AVAILABLE

“Watch” is the title of the new UCC Writers Group Advent devotional booklets. A challenging, inspiring, comforting word of hope is offered for each day of Advent. One per family please.

NEED A GIFT IDEA? ORDER YOUR MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICK NOW

Please consider ordering a memorial garden brick for \$100 to honor your special occasion or loved one through an inscribed brick. Order forms are available at the church or you may contact Debbie Davis at debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com for an electronic order form.

SANDWICH MINISTRY SABBATICAL

The sandwich ministry will take a break for December. Please check back in January when we resume our ministry in feeding those in need.

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.

- Support the Jamel Niner Pantry with food items and/or gently used professional clothing for UNCC students
- Pick an Angel gift or gift card from the Angel Tree
- Volunteer with Room In The Inn. See the sign up board in the gathering room.

Elder for December: Kathi Smith, kathleenie53@msn.com or 704-614-7674

Deacons for December: Renee Brown, Micheal Hall

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

Greeters: Shirley Moder, Marylou Iantosca

Ushers: Kevin Decker, Kevin Edwards Knight, Tom Magraw

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis, Olivia Carney

Tabulators: Kathi Smith, Sally McLester

Refreshments: Alix Felsing, Tommy Tomlinson

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

The Andes Magraw family in the death of Tom's father, Dick Magraw
Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, David Cable, Donna Collins, Linn
Finger, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Phil Kaveler, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson,
Isabelle Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed Sharp, Anita Taylor, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

The family of Jim Simmons in the death of his wife, Florence (Dawn Simmons)
Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Bill Bennett (Kathleen Wagner), Marj Carmine (Donna
Collins), Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Alice
Huskins (Jared Fischer), Beth Poyer Meyer, Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie
Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Naomi Scheiperpeter,
Becky Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto & family (Aida Marcial), Doris Storie
(Garrett Barlow), Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb), Gary & Wanda
Gilbert West (John Rapp), Elizabeth Wilson (Donna Collins)

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

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

Ms. Cheri Dennis, Ministry Intern

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

Rev. Barbara Thomas, Interim Minister for Church & Family Life

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