



Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given him the honor and authority that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ... You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, serving is not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. *John 13:1-5, 13-17*

**Essential Questions**

**How Shall I LIVE?**

## Silent Meditation

The chief means of resisting manipulation is humility – knowing who we really are and facing it. You can only serve by love. You can only love by choice. True love cannot be the result of decree, force or manipulation. Jesus always kept his strength to make loving choices. He calls us to make loving choices necessary to be the servant of all.

~Gayle D. Erwin, *The Jesus Style*

**The most formidable way to lead is to serve.**

**And while the perplexing oxymoron of such a grinding statement absolutely cripples us, it birthed a Savior.**

~Craig D. Lounsbrough

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT: ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

**March 18, 2018**

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

Suzanne Lamorey

One: We come seeking peace and relief from the worry and busyness  
of our every-day lives

**Many: We come to find the One who says to us “Peace I give you”**

One: We come seeking answers, knowledge and wisdom to guide our  
decisions and frame our lives.

**Many: We come to encounter the One who declares: ‘I am the way  
and the truth and the light’.**

One: We come seeking meaning and purpose, so that our lives  
become a powerful witness to love and justice

**Many: We come to re-discover our identity as servants, motivated  
by the great love of the One who is both servant and master.**

One: We come with our need for help and hope.

**All: We come into the presence of the renewing spirit of God. We  
come to praise the God of peace, love, hope, meaning and  
life. Let us worship the Lord our God!**

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

\* Hymn 542

“Born of God, Eternal Savior”  
*(verses 1, 2, & 4)*

WEISSE FLAGGEN

1. Born of God, E-ter-nal Sav-ior, source of life, of truth and grace,  
Hu-man One, whose birth in-car-nate hal-lows all our hu-man race,  
Come a-gain, in all your glo-ry; come to us, in-spire and lead;  
Fill us with your lov-ing-kind-ness, heal our wrongs, and help our need.
  
2. Christ, as you have lived for oth-ers, so may we for oth-ers live;  
Free-ly have your gifts been grant-ed, free-ly may your ser-vants  
All the wealth that we may gath-er is for use in caus-es just.  
We are stew-ards of the boun-ty loaned to us in sol-emn trust.
  
4. See the Christ-like host ad-vanc-ing, high and low-ly, great and small,  
Linked in bonds of com-mon ser-vice, an-swer-ing the Sav-ior's call.  
Je-sus Christ, we hear your plead-ing that your peo-ple should be one.  
Grant, O grant our hope's fru-i-tion: here on earth, your will be done.

“Desert Song”

by Brooke Fraser

This is my prayer in the desert when all that's within me is dry  
This is my prayer in my hunger and need,  
My God is the God who provides.

And this is my prayer in the fire, in weakness or trial or pain  
There is a faith proved of more worth than gold,  
So refine me, Lord, through the flame.

*Chorus* : And I will bring praise! I will bring praise!  
No weapon formed against me shall remain  
I will rejoice, I will declare,  
Christ is my victory and He is here.

This is my prayer in the harvest when favor and providence flow,  
I know I'm filled to be emptied again, the seed I've received I will sow.

“In Feast or Fallow”

by Sandra McCracken

When the fields are dry, and the winter is long  
Blessed are the meek, the hungry, the poor.  
When my soul is downcast, and my voice has no song  
For mercy, for comfort, I wait on the Lord.

*Chorus: In the harvest feast or the fallow ground  
My certain hope is in Jesus found.  
My lot, my cup, my portion sure  
Whatever comes, we shall endure;  
Whatever comes, we shall endure.*

On a cross of wood, Christ's blood was outpoured  
He tore through the veil, our rebellion had sewn  
Trading pardon for violence, and blessing for scorn  
By love's self-denial, Death's way he disowned. (*Chorus*)

When the earth beneath me crumbles and quakes  
Not a sparrow falls, nor a hair from my head  
Without Christ's hand to guide me, my shield and my strength  
In joy or in sorrow, in life or in death. (*Chorus*)

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

Old Testament Reading      Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Kevin Edwards

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**One:**    May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Many:**   Thanks be to God.   Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Call to Prayer

“Sanctify”

by M. Smith and Stu G.

**Here I am, In that old place again / Down on my face again  
Crying out, I want you to hear my plea / Come down and rescue me  
How long will it take? / How long will I have to wait?**

*Chorus:*   **And all I want is all you have  
Come to me, rescue me, fall on me with your love  
And all you want is all I have  
Come to me, rescue me, fall on me with your love**

**Sanctify, I want to be set apart / Right to the very heart  
Prophecy to the four winds / And breathe life to this very place  
How long will it take? / How long will I have to wait?**

**Lifted up, I've climbed with the strength I have  
Right to this mountain top  
Looking out, the cloud's getting bigger now  
It's time to get ready now**

Prayer of Confession

Nancy Ellett Allison

**Many:** Gracious God, we are so thankful that we do not have to hide the darkness of our mistakes, our regrets and misdeeds. Because of your mercy, we open ourselves to your light, knowing that you will redeem all of us. We confess our attraction to wealth and power and prestige. We confess that we are self-centered and driven to achieve success as the world defines it. We ignore the needs of your children and are not aware of the effect that our decisions have on others. We listen to our own voices more than we seek your voice. Forgive us, we pray. Renew a right spirit within us. Shine your light of love in every dark corner of our lives.

*Silent Confession*

Assurance of Pardon

**One:** My sisters and brothers, this is the good news of the Gospel. We are a forgiven people. God's lovingkindness is poured out on all of us so that we might live renewed and abundant lives.

**Many:** Thanks be to God!

\* Gospel Lesson

John 13: 1-5, 13-17

Lloyd Spencer

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, Jesus said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfil the scripture, "The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me." I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.'

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

"How Shall I Live?"

Barbara Thomas

Offertory Invitation

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory

\* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

☩ **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

Nancy Ellet Allison

\* Hymn

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

EBENEZER

Lord, whose love in humble service  
Bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken,  
Worked Your mercy's perfect deed:  
We, Your servants, bring the worship  
Not of voice alone, but heart;  
Consecrating to Your purpose  
Every gift which You impart.

Still Your children wander homeless;  
Still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom;  
Still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
Healed the sick and freed the soul,  
By Your Spirit send Your power  
To our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision,  
Till your love's revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness  
Dawns upon our quickened sight,  
Making known the needs and burdens  
Your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to ardent service,  
Your abundant life to share.

\* Benediction

Barbara Thomas

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.

### GAME NIGHT, APRIL 14

The **Bold and Beautiful** Covenant Group is hosting a family game night on Saturday, April 14 at HCUCC! Please save the date and consider using it as your Covenant Group April Activity. Tentative time is 6pm. More information to come! Everyone is welcome!

### MICHAEL G. BROOKS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was created to encourage youth in both their educational growth and service to God. Applications must be submitted **by April 29**. Priority given to graduating High School seniors. For more information and an application contact the church office.

### COVENANT GROUP FACILITATORS MEET, APRIL 29

Group facilitators please gather in the Conference Room following worship on April 29<sup>th</sup> as we plan for future groups. Please let **Rev. Barbara** know that you will be attending. Covenant groups are one means of forming a deeper connection within our Holy Covenant congregation. Any member of the congregation who would like to connect or re-connect with a group please let us know by contacting **Joy Decker, Phil Kaveler** or **Rev. Barbara**.



**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**  
**PALM & PASSION SUNDAY, MARCH 25**

We begin in celebration with our palms and the coming of Jesus into Jerusalem. We will then transition to Passion Sunday as the Chancel Choir leads us in worship. Join us for this service of remembering the seven last words of Jesus.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29, SUPPER 6PM, WORSHIP 7PM**

Join us for supper at 6 PM and worship at 7 PM with a 'Service of Shadows' or Tenebrae service. We will celebrate communion as we prepare our hearts for the receiving of the message of Holy week and Easter.

**EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES, APRIL 1**  
***BRING FRESH FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS***

**8:00 AM WORSHIP**

Join us as we worship through song and Word to celebrate the joy of the resurrection and new life.

**10:55 AM WORSHIP**

Join us as we worship through song and Word to celebrate the joy of the resurrection and new life. Special music will feature the Chancel Choir, the Music Cooperative, vocalists and instrumentalists

**BRING YOUR EGGS BY MARCH 29 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 March: Jeff Edwards-Knight, jeff763@aol.com or 704-651-4838

Deacons for March: Sally Duffy, Diane Rogers

Greeters: Bill Hildebrand, Connie Hildebrand

Ushers: Joy Decker, Kevin Decker, Kevin Edwards Knight, Tom Magraw

Acolyte: Nate Ward

Media: Brian Hankins, Debbie Davis, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Terry Raley Dennis, Joy Decker, JoAnn Jellison

Refreshments: Tina Dickens

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Members**

Susan Bennett Stiles, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Cindy Coble, Linn Finger, Eileen Howe, Helen Lambert, Sharon Landis, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed Sharp, Caroline Utz

**Friends & Family Members**

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Diane Brown (Renee Brown), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Bill Funderburk, Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren) Pauline McCowan (Martha Bomely), Beth Poyer Meyer, Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Becky Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Norma Thomas (Barbara Thomas), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp), Jason Wingard (Cynthia Simpson)

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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

**Mrs. Cheri Dennis, Ministry Intern**

**Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music**

**Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

**3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510**

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