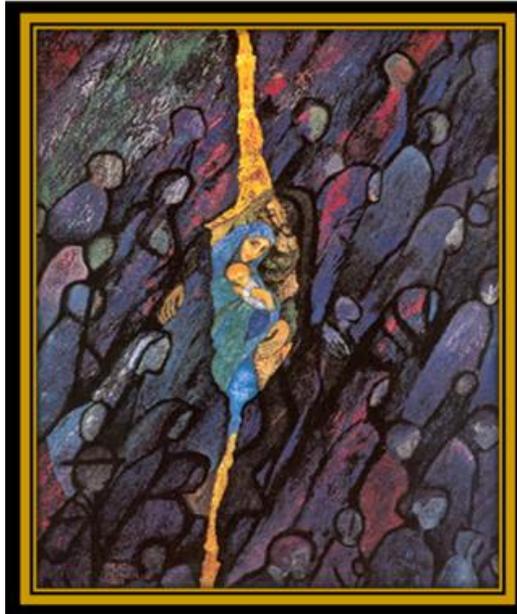


# HOLY COVENANT

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Advent Proclaims All is Well



“O Saviour, Tear Open the Heavens” © Beate Heinen

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Isaiah 9:2**

#### **Silent Meditation**

*Gabriel*

When the angel  
comes to you,  
cease your chattering,  
surrender your resolve,  
and listen for  
the mystery

~Nancy Compton Williams

What deadens us most to God's presence within us... is the inner dialogue that we are continuously engaged in with ourselves, the endless chatter of human thought. I suspect that there is nothing more crucial to true spiritual comfort...than being able from time to time to stop that chatter including the chatter of spoken prayer. If we choose to seek the silence of the holy place...I think there is no surer way than by keeping silent.

~ Frederick Buechner

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ALL IS WELL ~ FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 2, 2018

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

David A. Smith

Welcome and Announcements ☩

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

All: **And also with you.**

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

Opening Voluntary

David A. Smith

\* Call to Worship

Diane Rogers

One: Christ is coming.

Many: **Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart.**

One: Let us prepare for the unexpected to break into our lives; let us be alert to the grace and healing offered in this day.

Many: **As we watch with anticipation, may the Light of Christ's love be born afresh in our lives today and in all the world each new day!**

\* Passing of the Peace

Diane Rogers

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.**

\* Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, hope of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child you came to reign.**

**Born to live in us forever, come be born in us again.**

**By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;**

**By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

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

O Come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Child of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and night;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And help us in that way to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, Desire of Nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Lighting the Advent Candle

Lisa Cloninger & Kathi Smith

One: Today we light one candle, the Candle called hope, as a reminder that God's promises are true.

Many: We place our hope in God.

One: We place our lives in God's care.

Many: Come, all is ready. Let the light of this one candle, called hope, bring brightness to all spirits.

Advent Carol

Prepare me with open arms for the child;  
Prepare me with open heart, soft and mild.  
Prepare me to feel the joy that he brings. Prepare me, Emanuel.

This is the time for us to find; Room at last in the inn.  
Candles we light to shine in the night; Christ, you come once again.

Children's Offering & Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Advent Music & Movement

Melissa McQueen- Simmons

"Mary Did You Know?"

Prayers of the People

Fred Robinson

\* Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:5-20

Fred Robinson

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of God. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Living God and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Living God, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him.

But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

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

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



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!

\* Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Let us go, to join the angels in singing of God's glory and grace.  
Let us go to share the good news, that Jesus, the brother of the  
vulnerable and forgotten is in our midst still.

Let us go to offer peace and goodwill to everyone, joining the Spirit  
in telling of all we have seen and heard. Amen.

\* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

\* Benediction Response 106

ELLACOMBE

☐ My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me,  
For God has come in power to save, to set all people free.  
Remembering those who wait to see salvation's dawning day,  
Our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.

Postlude

David A. Smith

## 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.

### MUSIC DURING OUR INTERIM: THANK YOU TO DAVID A. SMITH

David Smith has been a member of Holy Covenant since 1994 and throughout his membership has been engaged in our music ministries. We are grateful to David and the Music Cooperative for leading us in worship today in this interim time.

### HCUCC YOGA4ALL, DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities....Beginners and those who are yoga-curious are encouraged to attend. Questions? contact David [davidsmith02b@gmail.com](mailto:davidsmith02b@gmail.com) or 704-533-2142. Join us December 12 (8PM), 19 (7:30PM) & 26 (7:30PM). Namaste!

### HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN

**December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10**

HCUCC will again host our yet to be housed neighbors to keep them warm, give them a place to shower, and feed them hot meals. Can you help with this ministry? A casserole? A Dessert? Or just be present for conversation? Check the signup sheets in the Gathering Room...there are many ways you can help to welcome our neighbors in need. Contact Suzanne Lamorey at [suzlam@yahoo.com](mailto:suzlam@yahoo.com) with any questions.

### HCUCC BOOK CLUB

The HCUCC book club reading schedule:

**December 12:** Andrew Sean Greer's *Less*, a laugh out loud novel, which we can all use! **January 9:** Joanna Cannon's *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep*, a mystery of sorts, another nice change of pace for our book club.

We meet at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte. Please join us for thoughtful, lively discussions.

### **SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Sojourners will begin a study of immigration for the next two months. Led by Suzanne Lamorey, it will include videos and a book study of *The Beast* by Oscar Martinez who spent two years traveling up and down the migrant trail from Central America and across the U.S. border. Martinez writes in powerful, unforgettable prose about clinging to the tops of freight trains, finding respite, work and hardship in shelters and brothels, and riding shotgun with the border patrol. If you would like to have Suzanne order a book for you (to save on postage), send her an email (suzlam@yahoo.com). She has also reserved several copies at the public libraries, so you can just check one out. **Join us at 9:45 each Sunday in the Conference Room for lively discussion!**

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

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

Deacons for December: Sally Duffy, Diane Rogers

Greeters: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Johnson

Ushers: JP Griffin, Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barb Schneller

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Alice Phelan

Refreshments: Plaza Midwood/Unstructured Covenant Groups

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

#### **Members**

Martha Bomely, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Jill Gregg, Eileen Howe, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Caroline Utz

#### **Friends & Family Members**

Jesiah, Devon & Parker (Marine Luckhoo); Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Barbara Hunt (Donna Collins), David Owens (Donna Collins), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jessie Sharp

(Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), John Teague (Donna Collins), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

## **Advent Proclaims All is Well Service of Comfort & Hope**

**Wednesday, December 12, 7pm**

Prepare yourself for the holiday season in this service of comfort and hope as we bring calm to the moment, remembering those we have lost in this last year through prayer, song and reflection.

## **Lessons & Carols of the Incarnation**

**Sunday, December 16, 10:55 am**

Join us during worship to celebrate Advent through readings and music. Our Handbell Choir, Children's Choir, Music Cooperative, and Chancel Choir will lead the service.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7PM**

**Christmas Eve Chili supper 5:30-6:30**

(Sign up in the Gathering Room to bring a pot of chili, toppings, cookies, or help with clean up)

## **ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES AT HCUCG**

### **CHRISTMAS FUND**

Donate to the Holy Covenant Christmas Fund to support our members with financial needs during the holidays. Funds will be managed through the Sunshine Fund process. Need help over the holidays? Contact Lisa Cloninger- [lisacmsw@hotmail.com](mailto:lisacmsw@hotmail.com) to request funds.

### **SENIOR ANGELS**

Take a senior angel from the tree and fulfill basic care needs and small gifts to show seniors with little or no support some love and care during the holiday season.

### **FAMILY ANGELS**

Support a local, working family of six by providing a Christmas meal, toys, clothing and books to help this family celebrate the season.

***Please drop off items in the gathering room no later than Dec 9.***

### **A HOLIDAY LOVE OFFERING FOR 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. We have wonderful, dedicated leadership and support who work very hard to make Holy Covenant a place of welcome, warmth, and spiritual renewal. Please direct your gifts to Cheryl Milam by December 20th which will allow time to organize and distribute gifts on December 23. Thank you for considering our church staff as you plan out your holiday giving plans. Love Offerings will be collected by Cheryl Milam by mail (16446 Grassy Creek Dr., Huntersville, NC 28078) or at worship (payable to Cheryl, or cash). In her absence, Jeff Edwards-Knight will receive the offerings on Cheryl's behalf.

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor  
Rev. Fredrick D. Robinson, Associate Pastor  
Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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

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