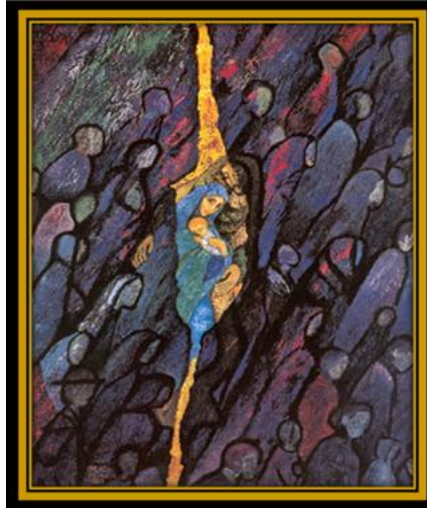


HOLY COVENANT

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

Remember the word
The one from the manger?
It means only this ~
You can dance with a stranger.

~ Abner Dean

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

December 9, 2018

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

David Gilliland

Welcome and Announcements ☩

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

All: **And also with you.**

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

Choral Introit "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

Felicia Robinson, vocals, David Gilliland, piano

* Call to Worship

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 will change the world—and change us.**

One: We come to listen for words of hope and joy, 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: Into the bustle of our lives and the hard to find moments of solitude we prepare to welcome the Christ Child.

Many: **Into our homes and situations along with friends and families we prepare to welcome new life.**

One: Into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives we prepare to welcome all.

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

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

O how shall I receive you, how met you on your way,
blessed hope of every people, my soul's delight and stay?
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light,
to know what-e'ev is pleasing and welcome in your sight.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you unto me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Christ, with gladness, in mercy and good will,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when a renewed creation your glory shall display.

1. Of the Spirit's heart begotten
when the worlds were yet to be
One there was with no beginning,
One who is eternally-
Source and Ending of all things that have been,
and all things that are to be,
forever and forever.
2. By this Word was all created,
by this Word were all things done:
Land and air and deepest ocean,
harmony of three in one,
And all growing in the luminance
shed forth from the moon and sun,
forever and forever.

3. Blessed dawning of salvation
as the Word in breathed in grace
Into earthly flesh receiving-
God incarnate taking place;
Now the light of God revealed
through the Child of human face,
forever and forever.
4. Now behold the One whom prophets
have foretold for ages long
On the faithful page of scripture,
seers and sages in their son;
Now the Promised One shines forth!
Let all earth in praise prolong
forever and forever.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Sarah, Michael, Alex and Ben Sladek

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Many: those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

One: The light grows gradually brighter as we move through Advent together.

Many: The candle of Hope burns bright. Today, we light the candle of Peace.

One: The coming Christ desires us all to thrive, patiently wanting us to turn from the ways of sin and death. As we wait for the coming of the day of God, we want to be ready.

Many: Seeking a way forward, we light this candle to guide our steps. Together, we prepare the way and strive to lead lives of holiness, goodness, and peace

Advent Carol

Lyrics and music by David A. Smith

φ 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.)

Special Music

"Gesù Bambino"

Pietro Yon

Laura Valles, vocals, David Gilliland, piano

Prayers of the People

Fred Robinson

* Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-37

Fred Robinson

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Living God is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative, Elizabeth, in her old age, has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

"All is Well: Let it Be"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Fred Robinson

Offertory Music

“When Hope Came Down”
by Ben Glover

Music Cooperative

So this is how it was/ A silent night like any other,
When heaven sent the one,/ The one we will call our savior,
And redemption begins,/ In a stable in Bethlehem,

Chorus:

All of the angels lifted up their voices,
And filled the night with Hallelujahs,
God is with us now, / Everyone come and join the heavenly chorus,
Our savior King is here before us, All to hear the sound
The song creation sang,/ When Hope Came Down,

So This was truly God, /Wrapped in a tattered blanket,
Love was finally here, /Sleeping while the world awakened,
And redemption begins, /With a baby in Bethlehem, (*Chorus*)

So let us sing Redemption Song, /Let us worship Christ the Holy one,
We were lost, but we were found, /When Hope Came Down,
When Hope Came Down. (*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.

* Offertory Dedication

Fred Robinson

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response 106

ELLACOMBE

φ 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 Gilliland

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 (Marina Luckhoo); Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Barbara Hunt (Donna Collins), David Owens (Donna Collins), Walter Raley (Jean Raley Dennis), 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)

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: Laura Hankins, Suzanne Lamorey

Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Joy Decker, Sue Pascucci

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Diane Rogers, Kathi Smith

Refreshments: Plaza Midwood/Unstructured Covenant Groups

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

(Continued from front cover:)

Whether (Jesus) was born in 4 B.C. or A.D. 6, in Bethlehem or Nazareth, whether there were multitudes of the heavenly host to hymn the glory of it or just Mary and her husband — *when the child was born, the whole course of human history was changed.*

That is a truth as unassailable as any truth. Art, music, literature, Western culture itself ... it is impossible to conceive how differently things would have turned out if that birth had not happened...

This is the central truth that Matthew and Luke are trying to convey in their accounts of the Nativity. And it was a truth which no language or legend seemed too extravagant to convey.

~ Frederick Buechner

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 GILLILAND

David is the Departmental Accompanist for Davidson College. A specialist in choral and wind literature, and an active chamber musician, he has also served with a variety of congregations. We are grateful to have David and his daughter Morgan worship with us often and accompanying our choir this year.

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 or 704-533-2142. Join us December 12 (8PM), 19 (7:30PM) & 26 (7:30PM). Namaste!

HOLY COVENANT HOSTS ROOM IN THE INN TONIGHT

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? Set up following worship? Be present for conversation? Clean up Monday morning? 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 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 class, led by Suzanne Lamorey, is studying immigration using videos and *The Beast* by Oscar Martinez. If you would like to order a book send an email to suzlam@yahoo.com. Copies are also at the public libraries, so you can check one out. Join us at 9:45 each Sunday in the Conference Room!

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 HCUGC

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 to request funds.

SENIOR ANGELS & FAMILY ANGELS

Thank you to all who have supported this important outreach ministry! Deadlines have been extended for receipt of the gifts for the Angel Tree. The very last available time for gifts to be received at the church will be **Wednesday, December 12 at NOON. Please do not wrap gifts.** Communications can be made first with Jean Raley-Dennis, j.raleydennis@gmail.com or 704-577-8784, or second with Terry Raley-Dennis at 704-785-7150.

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. Please direct your gifts to Cheryl Milam by December 20th. 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
www.holycovenantucc.org office@holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810**