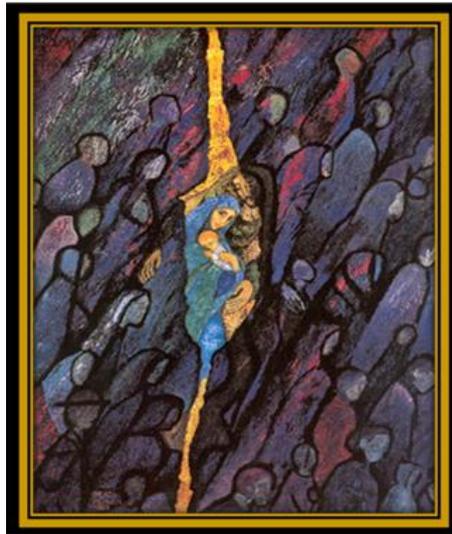


HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

O Precious Jesus,
At last you come for us. You come because of us. You
are the gift beyond all gifts! More than a day, a season,
or a song, you simply ARE.

ARE truth, OUR truth
ARE hope, OUR hope
ARE light, OUR light
ARE life, OUR life
ARE love, OUR love
Amen.

~The Rev. Scott L. Adams

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ALL IS WELL ~ FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 30, 2018

10:55AM

Prelude

Cheri Dennis

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Fred Robinson

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

Many: **And also with you.**

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

Opening Voluntary

Cheri Dennis

* Call to Worship

Kristin Andes

One: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

Many: **God is there.**

One: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

Many: **God is there.**

One: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

Many: **God is there.**

One: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

Many: **God is there.**

One: This very morning,

Many: **God is here.**

One: In the future we cannot see,

Many: **God is there.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

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

* Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful joyful and triumphant,
Oh come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Highest, Most Holy, Light of Light Eternal
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten not created: *(Refrain)*

Sing choirs of angels sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: *(Refrain)*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of our God is now in flesh appearing: *(Refrain)*

* Invocation: *(Unison)*

Gregg Walker

Loving God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Open our hearts and minds to the truth made evident in Christ that you are with us. Open our hearts to recognize you in our midst calling us to live into your new vision: a world where your love takes shape in justice, kindness and peace. Empower us to live as you would have us live, serve as you would have us serve and love as you would have us love. Hallelujah, Amen!

Children's Message

Fred Robinson

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

* Gospel Lesson Matthew 2:13-23

Gregg Walker

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

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

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

Gift in Music

“Baby Son” by John Mark McMillan
Shea Watts, vocals and guitar

*We thought You'd come with a crown of gold
A string of pearls and a cashmere robe
We thought You'd clinch an iron fist
And rain like fire on the politics
But without a sword, no armored guard
But common born in mother's arms
The government now rests upon
The shoulders of this Baby Son*

*Have you no room inside your heart
The inn is full, the out is dark
But upon profane shines sacred sun
Not ashamed to be one of us*

*But without a sword, no armored guard
But common born in mother's arms
The government now rests upon
The shoulders of this Baby Son*

*Gloria, Allelu/ Christ the Lord
We've longed for You/ Gloria, Allelu
Christ the Lord/ We've longed for You
Gloria, Allelu/ Christ the Lord/ We've longed for You*

Prayers of the People

Fred Robinson

Meditation

“Christ is Born: Now What?”

Fred Robinson

Offertory Invitation

Gregg Walker

Offertory Music

Cheri Dennis

* 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

Gregg Walker

* Hymn

“Shine Jesus Shine”

Graham Kendrick

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus: Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me *(Chorus)*

* Benediction

Fred Robinson

by Eileen S. Howe

As we go forth to celebrate the prospects of a New Year take with you
The Light of Hope for things to come
The Light of Peace for a world in chaos
The Light of Joy for the gifts received
The Light of Love to give to family and friends
The Light of Christ to share with everyone we meet each day.

* Benediction Response 144

MENDELSSOHN

Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life our Savior brings, risen with radiant, healing wings.
Mildly laying glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the Christ-child bring!"

Postlude

Cheri Dennis

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

WELCOME TO HOLY COVENANT

We welcome all who worship with us tonight. We are an Open and Affirming, progressive Christian church welcoming all. Guests and members, please sign the friendship pad located in each pew. After signing, pass it back to its starting point, taking note of who is worshipping near you and greet them.

YEAR-END GIVING

Holy Covenant's fiscal year ends TOMORROW Monday, December 31 so any contributions for 2018 or prepayments for 2019 must be received at the church, or postmarked on or before 12/31/2018 if being mailed. Questions about year-end contributions, stock gifts or electronic giving may be directed to Dawn Simmons at office@holycovenantucc.org. We are grateful for the generosity of all at Holy Covenant.

HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN, JANUARY 13

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 with any questions.

CELEBRATE FOUNDER'S SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

The First Reformed Church of Charlotte met for its first Sunday of worship on January 16, 1916; join us on this day of celebration to remember what has been and to anticipate what is yet to be!

CONSISTORY ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

We will ordain our new elders and deacons of the Class of 2021 and install our officers during worship on January 13, 2018.

CONSISTORY RETREAT

Our Consistory will be gathering the weekend of January 11 & 12 to begin discussing ways to best serve Holy Covenant. If you have any ideas, projects or concerns you would like to share with the leadership team,

please feel free to contact one of them. Officers for the New Year are: Cheryl Milam, President; Gregg Walker, Vice-President, Lisa Sherman, Secretary, and Kathi Smith, Treasurer. Other members of Consistory include: Jeff Edwards Knight, Martha Bomely, James Hong, Suzanne Lamorey, Robert Shepherd, Diane Rogers, Joy Decker, Tom Magraw, JoAnn Jellison, Holly Middleton, and Ed Vickery.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

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!

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

The HCUCC book club reading schedule:

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.

HCUCC YOGA4ALL

We'll meet on January 2, 9 & 23; February 6, 13 & 23

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:David.davidsmith02b@gmail.com) or 704-533-2142. Namaste!

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: Lisa Sherman, Diane Rogers

Ushers: JP Griffin, Kevin Edwards Knight,
Tom Magraw, Shakti Subramanian

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Renee Brown

Tabulators: Debbie Davis, Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Debbie Davis, Ann Watkins

Recyclers: Eileen Howe

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Jill Gregg, 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, Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Barbara Hunt (Donna Collins), Fran Matkins (Robert Shepherd), David Owens (Donna Collins), Walter Raley (Jean Raley Dennis), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Virgil & Carol Stewart (Darline Warren), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), John Teague (Donna Collins), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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

Rev. Fredrick D. Robinson, Associate Pastor

Mr. Shea Watts, Director of Music Ministries

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Administrative Asst.

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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