



*Qi He, Adoration of the Magi*

## Silent Meditation

"Without the quest, there can be no epiphany."

~ Constantine E. Scaros

"What you're looking for is already inside you. You've heard this before, but the holy thing inside you really is that which causes you to seek it."

~ Anne Lamott

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."

~ Marcel Proust

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
EPIPHANY

January 6, 2019

10:55 AM

Prelude

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

Kathleen Smith

\* Call to Worship

Beth Christian Sharp

One: The days are beginning to grow longer,

Many: **We celebrate! The Light of the World is Jesus.**

One: Hopes for the New Year are blooming,

Many: **May the Light of the World guide us forward.**

One: Arise; shine, for your Light has come!

Many: **We are called out of our darkness into the Light.**

One: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it!

All: **We join together in worship to be light to the world!**

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

As with gladness those of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, true Morning Star, may see  
Evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
One whom heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger plain and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring  
Christ to you from whom they spring.

Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when mortal things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds your glory hide.

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.)*

\* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Hannah Magraw

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

**Many:** Thanks be to God.

\* Hymn

“We Three Kings”

KINGS OF CHRIST

We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

*Refrain:*

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain/ Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owed a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising, Worshiping God on high.

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorr’wing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone cold tomb.  
*(Refrain)*

Glorious now behold Christ arise; King and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Sounds through the earth and skies.  
*(Refrain)*

\* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:13-18

Joe Magraw

Now after they had left, an angel of the Living God 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 God 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.’

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

Many: Thanks be to God.



Offertory Music

“Good King Wenceslas”

TRAD. FINNISH TUNE

*words by JM Neale; arr. by the Roches*

*Lisa Cloninger, Kathleen Smith, vocalists; Music Cooperative*

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,  
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight, gath’ring winter fuel.

“Hither, page, and stand by me, if you know it, telling,  
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?”  
“Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,  
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes’ fountain.”

“Bring me food and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,  
You and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither.”  
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,  
Through the cold wind’s wild lament and the bitter weather.

“Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,  
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer.”  
“Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread now in them boldly,  
You shall find the winter’s rage freeze your blood less coldly.”

In his master’s steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, while God’s gifts possessing,  
You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

\*Offering Response 139

“First Nowell”

FIRST NOWELL

φ Then entered in those magi three,  
And bending low upon their knee  
They offered there, in great reverence,  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
Nowell - Born is the King of Israel.

\* Offertory Dedication

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**One:** May the Light breaking forth this day be with you.

**Many:** And also with you.

**One:** Let us open our hearts to the Light of Christ, born long ago, and born again in our lives.

**Many:** We open our hearts to God, to Christ the Light of the world, and to one another - our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Many:** GREENSLEEVES

φ Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises.  
We gather on this holy day. We gather at this table.  
Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!  
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

**One:** We celebrate the coming of the Light of the world; we have prayed for that light to enter our lives and our world.

**Many:** Yet we confess that there have been times when we have obscured the light for others through insensitivity and prejudice, through the use of careless and hurtful words or selfish and destructive actions.

(Silent Confession)

**One:** Come Lord Jesus, be light for our darkness and empower us with your Spirit to be faithful bearers of your light into all the shadowy and clouded areas of people's lives.

**Many:** GREENSLEEVES

φ The Word-made-flesh, Emmanuel; God, come to live among us!  
He preached good news: the kingdom come!  
A light shone in the darkness.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through!  
The Cross be borne for me for you.  
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh; the Babe, the Son of Mary.



## Words of Institution

**Many:**

- ☩ **Pour out your Spirit, Holy God, upon these gifts, and bless them.  
Make them for us the Bread of Life, the Cup of our Salvation!  
Raise, raise the song on high! Dear Mary sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

## Sharing the Bread and Wine

**One:** The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

*(Communion is received by intinction. Take a wafer or bread and dip it into the cup to receive both elements. Gluten free wafers are available.)*

Music during Communion

Kathleen Smith

**\* Prayer after Communion**

GREENSLEEVES

- ☩ **Thank God for Holy Mystery; Body of Christ; the gift of life!  
As we depart, let us take heart: God's light will lead us always!  
Raise, raise the song on high! Dear Mary sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**\* Benediction**

Nancy Ellett Allison

**\* 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

Kathleen 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.

### SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners class, led by Suzanne Lamorey, is studying immigration using *The Beast* by Oscar Martinez. Join us at 9:45 in the Conference Room!

### HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN, JANUARY 13

HCUCG 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? Check the signup sheets in the Gathering Room...there are many ways you can help to welcome our neighbors in need.

### 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!

### TIME OUT YOUTH, FAMILY STYLE DINNER, JANUARY 24

Please consider helping with this next meal planned for Thursday, January 24. All are welcomed! Contact Bob Saylor, [bchs3201@aol.com](mailto:bchs3201@aol.com) if you can participate.

### SAVORING LIFE: PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE: A GREENFAITH DAY APART

Saturday, February 2, 2019, from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at Holy Covenant  
Anne Findlay-Chamberlain will lead an interfaith day of retreat and reflection to identify and nurture your passion for the environment, identify specific actions that make a difference, and create communities for continuing support. Registration Information coming in early January.

## **HCUCC YOGA4ALL JANUARY SCHEDULE**

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

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

#### **MEMBERS**

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Anita Taylor, Caroline Utz

#### **FRIENDS & FAMILY MEMBERS**

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Ashley & Baby Evelyn Kate Cregan (Barbara Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Bill Englebretth (Judah Jones), Barbara Hunt (Donna Collins), David Owens (Donna Collins), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Beckye Neese Smith (Diane Neese), 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 Admin. Asst.**

#### **HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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