



Messenger

My work is loving the world.
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird —
equal seekers of sweetness.
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?
Am I no longer young, and still not half-perfect? Let me
keep my mind on what matters,
which is my work,

which is mostly standing still and learning to be
astonished.

The phoebe, the delphinium.

The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.

Which is mostly rejoicing, since all ingredients are here,

which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart
and these body-clothes,

a mouth with which to give shouts of joy

to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,

telling them all, over and over, how it is

that we live forever.

~ Mary Oliver

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THE FORTH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY ~ BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February 3, 2019

Gathering Music

Kathleen Smith

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.)*

Expression of Faith

“Love and Power”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Power without love is reckless and abusive,

and love without power is sentimental and anemic.

Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice,
and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.”

* Words of Preparation

Bill Tyler

One: God of creative love,

Many: **We celebrate the love which liberates us through poetry and
song, shapes and colors, designs and patterns.**

One: God of faithful love,

Many: **We celebrate the love of awesome forces and deep mysteries;
the love expressed in prayers and hymns; scripture and
sermons.**

One: God of adventurous love,

Many: **We celebrate the love that frees us to ask questions and
explore, to frame doubts and investigate new possibilities.**

One: God of determined love,

Many: **We celebrate the love that helps us communicate with one
another, express trust and respect, share heartaches and
visions.**

One: God of reconciling love,

Many: **We celebrate the love that conveys mercy and forgiveness; that
inspires us to encourage those around us; the love that affirms
and builds up, comforts and enlightens us.**

All: **God of all love, may we be your people in this place, offering
your love to all we encounter.**

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

* Passing of the Peace

Bill Tyler

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 43

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

BEECHER

Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
End of faith, as its be-gin-ing, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.

Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as you're an-gels love,
Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.

Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-let may we prove;
Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;
Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

"All You Need Is Love"

by *The Beatles*

Love, love, love (*repeat*)

There's nothing you can do that can't be done
Nothing you can sing that can't be sung
Nothing you can say, but you can learn how to play the game/ It's easy
Nothing you can make that can't be made
No one you can save that can't be saved
Nothing you can do, but you can learn how to be you in time/ It's easy
All you need is love, all you need is love (*repeat*)

There's nothing you can know that isn't known
Nothing you can see that isn't shown
There's nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be/ It's easy
All you need is love, all you need is love *(repeat)*

Children's Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Black History Focus

Fred Robinson

Contemporary Reading "Touched by an Angel"

by Maya Angelou

We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.
Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.
We are weaned from our timidity
In the flush of love's light
we dare be brave
And suddenly we see
that love costs all we are
and will ever be.
Yet it is only love
which sets us free.

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

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

The Power and Meaning of Spirituals in Worship

Shea Watts

Spiritual "Down By the Riverside"
I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside (*repeat*)
I ain't gonna study war no more (*repeat*)

I'm gonna lay down my heavy load...

Well, I'm gonna put on my long white robe, (Where?) ...

Prayers of the People

Fred Robinson

Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Cheri Lovell
If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

"Being Love"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Fred Robinson

Offertory Music

Kathleen Smith

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

φ Our God is making all things new,
A promise that we know is true.
Through eyes of faith we long to see
A love-transformed community. Amen.

* Offertory Dedication

Fred Robinson

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer for Communion

Nancy Ellett Allison

* One: Let us give words to our feelings.

All: Spirit of the universe, our souls are in need of nourishment. Our inadequacies drain our spirit. Our frustrations drain our spirit. The hurts and the pains of our world drain our spirit. We need to be fed. With our spirits and our hearts wide open we move to the table. Nourish us with your life, with your love, for our sake and for the sake of all we touch. Amen.

Words of Institution

Nancy Ellett Allison

Prayer of Consecration

Fred Robinson

(Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

Communion is received by intinction. Please take bread or a gluten free wafer and dip it into the cup to receive both elements.

The Communion elements are bread and grape juice.)

Music for Communion

“New Wine”
By Hillsong Worship

Music Cooperative

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(unison)*

Nancy Ellett Allison

We have been fed. Each of our spirits have been united by the bread and the cup. Let us feel the energy of wholeness no matter who we are or what our situation in life might be. We are nourished, we are loved, and we are grateful. Amen

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

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.

JOIN OUR NEW MEMBER - INQUIRER'S CLASSES THIS JANUARY

If you would like to learn more about our congregation or become a member at Holy Covenant, please join our Inquirer's Classes!

12:30 pm February 10 Elders and Deacon Luncheon Ministry

OUR VERY OWN AUTHOR EVENT WITH TOMMY TOMLINSON, TODAY!

What better way to talk about losing weight than at a church potluck?

Following worship Tommy Tomlinson will talk about his new book "*The Elephant in the Room*." The book is about his lifelong struggle with his weight and how he has tried to find a path to a better, healthier self.

PHOTO DIRECTORY COMING SOON!

Holy Covenant is partnering with Lifetouch Family Photography to create a pictorial directory for the church. The photo for the directory will be at no charge to our members. Lifetouch has opportunities for members to select various packages, if you would like to purchase pictures for yourselves. Terry Raley-Dennis will be available for the next four Sundays to schedule your family's appointment for the photo-shoots. **Photo shoots are Thursday, Feb 28th through Saturday, March 2nd.** Photo packages are available for group family photos as well as photos with your pets. Look for Terry at a table in the gathering room to schedule your appointment and to confirm your contact information.

LENTEN MEDITATIONS ~ BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Lent begins on March 6, Ash Wednesday, and continues until Easter Sunday, April 21. Would YOU like to write a devotional to be shared with our congregation? You will be given a lectionary text as a "starter" and the word count for your meditation is between 200-300 words. **Respond to Kathi Smith at kathleenie53@msn.com by February 10 if you are interested.** This can feed your soul, even if it does challenge you at the same time. As always, I will

provide a few examples to get you started and also will edit submissions lightly for length and clarity. Please prayerfully consider participating and email me today. (Those of you who have written before will be getting an invitation soon!) ~Kathi Smith.

HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN, FEBRUARY 10

HCUCC will 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? Can you assist with Monday morning clean up? Perhaps you would simply like to join us for dinner and conversation? See the signup board in the Gathering room or contact Suzanne, suzlam@yahoo.com.

MIGRANT BUS MINISTRY

Warm clothes, snacks, toiletries and diapers are being collected to give to migrants as they pass through Charlotte on the Greyhound bus route on their journey to pursuit asylum. A collection box is available in the Gathering Room. See Suzanne Lamorey with questions or to participate in this welcoming.

STUDENT PANTRIES

Schools are back into session. Contributions to the Backpack Ministry for local Elementary students and siblings and the UNCC Student pantry are welcomed. Gently worn professional clothing is also welcomed by the UNCC pantry. Look for the collection basket in the Gathering Room.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners will spend 4 Sundays discussing the book *Oneness: Great Principles Shared by all Religions*. On the last Sunday of February we will conclude the Bart Ehrman video series with Lecture 24 of *Once Jesus Became God*. On March 10, Pastor Fred Robinson will begin leading us each Sunday through Lent with a book study of *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* by Drew Hart. You can find it used on Amazon for about \$15.00 including shipping. Join us at 9:45 in the Conference Room.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COMMUNITIES ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The annual fundraising luncheon for Supportive Housing Communities will be held on Wednesday March 20 from 12-1:30pm at the NASCAR Hall of Fame uptown. You will hear inspiring stories from formerly homeless individuals, whose lives were changed by SHC. Please contact Melissa Noll at melissa.noll@aol.com if you are interested in attending or donating.

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP - KEEP IT SIMPLE!

To help keep us organized, we use an electronic signup for volunteers called SignUpGenius. You can use the link below to sign up, and you can still sign up on paper if you prefer.

<https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks2019>

HCUCC YOGA4ALL, WEDNESDAYS at 7:30 pm, February 6, 13 & 23

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

Elder for February: Tom Magraw, tmagraw@aol.com or 704-614-5405

Deacons for February: JoAnn Jellison, Lisa Sherman

Greeters: Donna Collins, Suzanne Lamorey

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

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Alice Phelan

Refreshments: Potluck

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), David Owens (Donna Collins), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Latasha Roberts, Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), 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)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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

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Rev. Fred Robinson, Associate Pastor

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