



*Construction began on the famed  
“Leaning” Tower of Pisa,  
the Cathedral bell tower, on August 14, 1173.*

**There is room for all of us in the resurrection conspiracy,  
the company of those who plant seeds of hope  
in dark times of grief or oppression,  
going about the living of these years until,  
no one knows quite how,  
the tender Easter shoots appear.**

~Robert Raines

***It has always struck me as remarkable that when the writers of the  
four Gospels come to the most important part of the story  
they have to tell, they tell it in whispers.  
The part I mean, of course, is the part about the resurrection.***

~Frederick Buechner

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

February 10, 2019

Gathering Music

David Gilliland

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

“Following the Will of God”

Bayard Rustin

“I must at all times attempt to obey the law of the state. But when the will of God and the will of the state conflict, I am compelled to follow the will of God...My activism did not spring from my being gay, or, for that matter, from my being black. Rather, it is rooted fundamentally in my Quaker upbringing and the values that were instilled in me by my grandparents.”

\* Words of Preparation

Kim Buch

One: This new day is fresh with possibility to encounter the Living Christ.

**Many: With bright eyes, let us search.**

One: This new day is fresh with possibility to understand the Living Christ.

**Many: With engaged minds, let us ponder.**

One: This new day is fresh with possibility to be moved by the Living Christ.

**Many: With compassionate hearts, let us feel.**

One: This new day is fresh with possibility to respond to the Living Christ.

**Many: With solid devotion, let us follow.**

One: This new day is fresh with possibility to serve the Living Christ.

**Many: With humble intention, let us act.**

One: This new day is fresh with possibility to praise the Living Christ.

**Many: With strong voices, let us sing.**

*(by Christine Sobania Johnson)*

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

\* Passing of the Peace

Kim Buch

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 238

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

NOEL NOUVELET

1. Now the green blade ris-es from the bur-ied grain;  
Wheat that in dark earth for man-y days has lain;  
Love lives a-gain, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.
2. In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,  
Think-ing that their Love would nev-er wake a-gain,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un-seen:  
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.
3. Christ came forth at Eas-ter, like the ris-en grain,  
Je-sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,  
Quick from the dead the ris-en One is seen:  
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.
4. When our hearts are win-try, griev-ing, or in pain,  
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a-gain,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come a-gain like wheat that ris-es green.

"Ain't No Grave"  
by David Crowder

O, my Lord, it's a winding road  
And my heart aches from a heavy load.  
I feel the weight beneath the ground.  
But ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

O, my Lord, I can barely sing  
Waiting on You and Your reckoning.  
I feel the weight beneath the ground.  
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

*Chorus: I will rise! I will rise! (2x)*  
*Trouble comes for everyone;*  
*Death has no respect for love.*  
*Roll that stone I won't be found;*  
*Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.*

O, my Lord, I can barely sing  
Waiting on You and Your reckoning.  
I feel the weight beneath the ground.  
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down. *(Chorus)*

Oh my Lord, I can barely see  
Through the fog pressing in on me.  
Angels humming, can you hear the sound?  
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down!

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

Jeff Edwards-Knight

Contemporary Reading

“I Dream a World”

by Langston Hughes

I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind-  
Of such I dream, my world!

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

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

Spiritual

“Soon I Will Be Done”

Felicia Robinson

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:1-23

Fred Robinson

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he

was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

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

“Foundations”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Fred Robinson

Offertory Music

David Gilliland

\* 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

\* Hymn 303

“Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing”

DARWALL’S 148<sup>TH</sup>

Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!  
For Christ has robbed death’s sting and triumphs evermore.  
Lift up your heart, life up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love;  
The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power above.  
Lift up your heart, life up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Christ Jesus cannot fail to rule both earth and heaven;  
The keys of death and hell are to the Savior given.  
Lift up your heart, life up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,  
And take the faithful up to their eternal home.  
We soon shall hear a heavenly voice above the trumpet’s sound,  
“Rejoice!”

\* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

David Gilliland

*No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

## 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

If you would like to learn more about our congregation or become a member at Holy Covenant, please join us today following worship. **12:30 pm February 10, Elders and Deacon Luncheon Ministry.** We will be welcoming new members on February 17.

### HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN TONIGHT

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? [suzlam@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Conference Room. See Suzanne Lamorey with questions or to participate in this welcoming.

### 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. Photo packages are available for group family photos as well as photos with your pets. Terry Raley-Dennis will be available for the next

three Sundays to schedule your family's appointment for the photo-shoots. **Photo shoots are Thursday Feb 28th through Saturday March 2nd.** 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](mailto: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.

### **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](mailto:melissa.noll@aol.com) if you are interested in attending or donating.

### **HCUCC YOGA4ALL, WEDNESDAYS at 7:30 pm**

We'll meet February 13 & 20

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities....Beginners and those who are yoga-curious are encouraged to attend. If you have questions, contact David [davidsmith02b@gmail.com](mailto:davidsmith02b@gmail.com) or 704-533-2142.

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

On the last Sunday of February we will conclude the Bart Ehrman video series *How Jesus Became God* with Lecture 24, "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 as often as you can.

### **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>

### **STUDENT PANTRIES**

Schools are back into session. Contributions to the Back Pack Ministry for 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.

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

Elder for February: Tom Magraw, [tmagraw@aol.com](mailto:tmagraw@aol.com) or 704-614-5405

Deacons for February: JoAnn Jellison, Lisa Sherman

Greeters: Laura Hankins, Debbie Winston

Ushers: Kevin Edwards Knight, Joy Decker, Sue Pascucci

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Diane Rogers, Kathi Smith

Refreshments: South Charlotte Covenant Group

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

### **Members**

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Phyllis Johnson, 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), Becki Minich (Eileen Howe), David Owens (Donna Collins), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Latassha 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)

**Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor**  
**Rev. Fred Robinson, Associate Pastor**  
**Mr. Shea Watts, Director of Music Ministries**  
**Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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