



## Silent Meditation

So what are we celebrating? The inscrutable mystery of God. The wonder of a God so transcendent that even our most precise descriptions are metaphor. We celebrate the majesty and glory of God...and the hope that a glimpse of God might be shown to us.

~ David Mauldin

*"Holiness is not an achievement, it is a Grace. A Grace called Awareness, a Grace called Looking, Observing, Understanding."*

~ Anthony de Mello

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
TRANSFIGURATION

March 3, 2019

Gathering Music

Kathleen Smith

Welcome and Announcements

Fred Robinson

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.)*

Opening Voluntary

Kathleen Smith

\* Words of Preparation (based on Psalm 96)

Kristin Andes

One: We come in reverent awe before the Living God - for great is the Holy One - and greatly to be praised!

Many: **We come, to join with all creation in singing new songs to God the Almighty!**

One: We come in worship and praise, with eager spirits.

Many: **We come, to share together the news of our God's saving work.**

One: We come with songs and prayers, to honor the Holy One!

Many: **We come, to bring our offerings to the Living God whose splendor, honor and majesty shines forth from God's presence. Amen.**

\* Passing of the Peace

Kristin Andes

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.**

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

1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
2. Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same:
4. A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream fades at the opening day.
6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!

Contemporary Music

“Great Are You Lord”  
*Music Cooperative*

All Sons and Daughters

You give life, You are love/ You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope, You restore/ Every heart that is broken  
Great are You, Lord

*Chorus:* It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only

You give life, You are love/ You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope, You restore/ Every heart that is broken  
Great are You, Lord (*Chorus*)

*Bridge:* And all the earth will shout Your praise  
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing  
Great are You, Lord (3x) (*to Chorus*)

Children's Message

Fred Robinson

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

Prayers of the People

Gregg Walker

Special Music

"Everything Is Sacred"  
*Shea Watts*

by Pat Barrett

Teach me that it all belongs/ That everything is sacred  
I eat the bread and drink the wine/ But help me love my neighbor  
And show me how to hold this life/ 'Cause I don't wanna waste it  
*(Chorus)*

*Chorus:* Oh, Heaven is upside down/ Oh, it can be here and now  
Oh, seeing it all around/ That everything is sacred

Ordinary shines and glows/ Fueled with Your intentions  
You don't see the lines we draw/ Between secular and sacred  
Oh show me how to hold this life/ 'Cause I don't wanna waste it  
*(Chorus)*

*Bridge:* Life is a gift and the Giver is good *(repeats)*



## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*(The liturgy includes the UCC Statement of Faith, indicated in italics.)*

- \* One: We invite all who celebrate Christ's life and love to join us at this table of fellowship. As we join together in Holy Communion we confess our faith as Christians:
- \* Many: *We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, have created us in your own image, and set before us the ways of life and death. You seek to save us from aimlessness and sin.*  
Yet we confess that there have been times when we have rejected life and with hurtful words or selfish and destructive actions we have lost our way and through insensitivity and prejudice, have denied your image in others.
- \* One: *You judge us and all nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.*
- \* Many: We come to the table of communion, confessing, not that we are righteous, but that we love our Lord Jesus Christ and desire to remember him. Let us admit, not that we are strong, but that we are needy; not that we have any claim on Christ, but that Christ invites us to receive his grace and experience his presence.  
*In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.*
- One: We remember on the night of his betrayal, as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "Take, eat: This is my body, broken for you." In like manner, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for all for the forgiveness of sins." Remembering this act of love, we offer our praise and proclaim our faith.

**Many:** With thanksgiving we celebrate the truth that:

*You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.*

*You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.*

*You promise to all who trust your forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.*

**One:** Come now, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

**Many:** Amen.

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

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

*The Communion elements are bread, wafers, gluten free wafers, and grape juice.*

Music during Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All:** We give thanks, Living God, that You have refreshed us at Your table by shining the Light of Christ into our lives. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace. Amen.

\* Benediction

Fred Robinson

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.

### TIME OUT YOUTH DINNER, FRIDAY, MARCH 8

We are serving our 4th family dinner at the Time Out Youth Center Friday night, 3/8. There is a need for donations (food or funds), and for several volunteers for that evening to serve & interact with youth for about 1-1.5 hours. TOY is a center that supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, & questioning Youth in promoting unconditional acceptance & creating space for self-expression. Your support greatly appreciated. Contact Bob Saylor, [bchs3201@aol.com](mailto:bchs3201@aol.com) or 704-239-7342 Love Wins...

### HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN, MARCH 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](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 Gathering Room. See Suzanne Lamorey with questions or to participate in this welcoming.

### TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME! JULY 27

Pawtucket Red Sox vs. Charlotte Knights, night game with fireworks. Sign up by March 10. Tickets range from \$19-23 depending on group size. Contact Martha Bomely, [martha.bomely@gmail.com](mailto:martha.bomely@gmail.com) and join in the fun!

## Season of Lent

### **ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 6, SUPPER, 6:00, WORSHIP, 7:00 PM**

**Supper:** The Hospitality Committee will provide several kinds of soup, salad, bread and beverages. We need YOU to provide dessert - cookies or bars. Come straight from work, enjoy the food, then attend the service. Families and children are welcome. Child care can be provided with an advance request.

**Worship:** Through music, readings and prayers, Ash Wednesday provides an opportunity for reflection and commitment in shaping your Lenten disciplines. Join us for this meaningful and moving experience.

**Check out the “Lenten Meditations” on Facebook  
each day during Lent!**

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/61370940062/>**

### **THE WAY OF GRACE, SUNDAYS, MARCH 10 - APRIL 14**

Sally Duffy and Micki Spear will lead a Lenten Devotion Group "Companions in Christ: The Way of Grace." "Grace" reflects the love and mercy given to us by God because God desires us to have it, not because of anything we have done to earn it." Sundays, 4 PM - 5:30 PM at Micki's home. Contact Micki at 704-728-7622 or Sally at 704-650-7385 to RSVP. Participation is limited to 8.

*Contact the office to participate in the following:*

### **BLESSING WHAT IS, TUESDAYS, MARCH 12 - APRIL 16**

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain will lead "Blessing What Is: Sacred pauses in our journey to Easter"; acknowledging where we are, and speaking words of blessing into that space. Gathering at Anne's home, 7 PM- 8:30 PM

### **PRACTICING MIDRASH, WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 13 - APRIL 17**

Nancy Allison will lead this midweek focus on ways to engage and study the Bible using Tim Moore's book, "Practicing Midrash." From noon to 1PM at Holy Covenant, we will join together for reflection, discussion and contemplation.

### **TROUBLE I'VE SEEN BOOK STUDY, SUNDAYS, MARCH 17 - APRIL 14**

Fred Robinson will lead our Adult discussion class on Sunday mornings at 9:45AM. This book is subtitled "Changing the way the Church Views Racism" and will be a valuable discussion in leading us forward.

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

Elder for March: Kathleen Smith, kathleenie53@msn.com or 704-614-7674

Deacons for March: Jim Hong, Ed Vickery

Greeters: Lisa Sherman

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

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Alice Phelan

Refreshments: Plaza Midwood Covenant Group

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

**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, Caroline Utz

**Friends & Family Members**

Eugenia Holste in the death of Rev. Harold Holste (ret.); The family of Robert Long (Robert Shepherd); Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), Becki Minich (Eileen Howe), Tony Morand (Lloyd & Gussie Spencer), David Owens (Donna Collins), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Chris Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), 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 [pastor@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:pastor@holycovenantucc.org)

Rev. Fred Robinson, Associate Pastor [fredrick@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:fredrick@holycovenantucc.org)

Mr. Shea Watts, Director of Music Ministries [music@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:music@holycovenantucc.org)

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