



The original Amistad (friendship in Spanish) was a coastal cargo vessel carrying 53 kidnapped Africans to be sold into slavery until they broke their chains and seized the ship. Thinking they were sailing for home and freedom, they were tricked by the pilot and apprehended off the coast of Long Island, N.Y. Brought to New Haven, Conn., they were jailed on charges of mutiny and murder.

The story might have ended there if it hadn't been for a courageous band of Congregational, Baptist and Presbyterian abolitionists who fought the charges all the way to the Supreme Court, which set the captives free on the grounds that they had never been slaves.

Out of that struggle, the abolitionists formed the American Missionary Association, which was eventually absorbed into the wider United Church of Christ.

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 24, 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.)*

Opening Voluntary

Kathleen Smith

* Invocation

Donna Collins

Gracious God, we gather today to celebrate your presence in the lives of all. Send your Spirit to meet us here and guide us into your depths that we may begin to glimpse your grace. Your mercies so tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

* Passing of the Peace

Donna Collins

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*

* Hymn

“Everyone Thirsting”

BUNESSAN

Everyone thirsting, come to the waters!
You with no money, come buy and eat!
Come for the sweet wine, come for the fresh milk,
Come with no money, there is no price.

Why spend your living on what can't feed you?
Why labor long and not satisfy?
Listen to me, child, let my words guide you,
And you'll be feasting, full of good life.

You have a future, I have ordained it;
Through David's lineage deliverance comes.
Nations unknown to you will befriend you,
God's glory shines through you from now on.

Contemporary Song

“Wonder”

by J Houston & M Crocker

Music Cooperative

Have you ever seen the wonder In the glimmer of first sight
As the eyes begin to open And the blindness meets the light
If you have so say

Chorus 1: I see the world in light I see the world in wonder
I see the world in life Bursting in living color
I see the world Your way And I’m walking in the light

Have you ever seen the wonder In the air of second life
Having come out of the waters With the old one left behind
If you have so say

Chorus 2: I see the world in grace I see the world in gospel
I see the world Your way And I’m walking in the light

Interlude: I’m walking in the wonder You’re the wonder in the wild
Turning wilderness to wonder If You have so say

Chorus 3: I see the world in love I see the world in freedom
I see the Jesus way You’re the wonder in the wild

Bridge: I see the world Your way And I’m not afraid to follow
I see the world Your way And I’m not ashamed to say so
I see the Jesus way And I’m walking in the light
(to Chorus 1, 2, END)

Children’s Offering & Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

(Following the Children’s Message, preschoolers go to extended care and those in kindergarten through fifth grade to Children’s Church.)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant... Seek the Living One while God may be found, call upon God who is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Holy One, that God may have mercy on them, and to our God, who will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Living God. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

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

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

Call to Prayer

“Return to God”

by Marty Haugen

(Soloist sings, congregation sings)

Refrain

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the

Source of grace and mer - cy; come seek the ten - der

faith - ful - ness of God.

Prayer of Confession (*unison, attributed to St. Francis of Assisi*)

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life. Let us begin again as instruments of peace through Christ Jesus who taught us to pray, Our God in whom is heaven, hallowed be your name...(Lord's Prayer, using sins, sinner)

Assurance of Pardon

One: Return to the Living God, who will show you peace and mercy, come back to God who will abundantly pardon. In the name of the Living Christ, I declare to all who turn to God: "Your sins are forgiven! Go in peace."

Many: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 13:1-5

Nancy Ellett Allison

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

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

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

Special Music

"Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child"

TRADITIONAL

Felicia Robinson, vocalist

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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE

One Great Hour of Sharing, received on March 31, is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. Imagination is essential to God's hope for creation; let's join God in imagining and supporting a world where all are safe, all are loved, all are fed.

MIGRANT BUS MINISTRY

Winter coats, 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.

Holy Week Services

PALM & PASSION SUNDAY, APRIL 14

We begin in celebration with our palms and the coming of Jesus into Jerusalem. We will then transition to Passion Sunday as the Music Cooperative and Chancel Choir lead us in worship. Join us for this service of remembering the seven last words of Jesus.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 18, SUPPER 6 PM, WORSHIP 7 PM

Join us for supper at 6 PM and worship at 7 PM with a 'Service of Shadows' or Tenebrae service. We will celebrate communion as we prepare our hearts for the receiving of the message of Holy week and Easter.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES, APRIL 21

BRING FRESH FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS

10:55 AM RESURRECTION SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us as we worship through song and Word to celebrate the joy of the resurrection and new life. Special music will feature the Chancel Choir, the Music Cooperative, vocalists and instrumentalists.

(We will not have an early service this year.)

BRING YOUR FILLED EGGS BY APRIL 14 FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT

For this year's Easter Egg Hunt we are asking folks to bring 1-2 dozen plastic eggs with goodies (no chocolate please). There will be a drop box in the gathering room to leave your filled eggs. If you can help, contact Caryn Capps or Jennifer Curlee in the Nursery.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Egg Hunt with separate search sites for our older and younger children will follow our 10:55 worship service.

Ongoing Lenten Studies

Lenten Meditations “Stacking Up the Stones” are posted daily on Facebook! Join the "Holy Covenant UCC" Facebook page to get each day's meditation during Lent. facebook.com/groups/61370940062/

BLESSING WHAT IS, TUESDAYS THROUGH APRIL 16

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain will lead “Blessing What Is: Sacred Pauses in Our Spiritual 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 RSVP office@holycovenantucc.org

PRACTICING MIDRASH, WEDNESDAYS THROUGH 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. RSVP office@holycovenantucc.org

TROUBLE I’VE SEEN BOOK STUDY, SUNDAYS THROUGH APRIL 14

Fred Robinson will lead our Adult discussion class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM. 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: Donna Collins, Laura Hankins

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, Michael Sladek, Eileen Howe

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Joy Decker, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Lisa Cloninger, Kathleen Smith

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Phyllis Johnson, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Will & Addie Mae Hong (Jim Hong), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), Becki Minich & Heather O'Donnell (Eileen Howe), Tony Morand (Lloyd & Gussie Spencer), David Owens (Donna Collins), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), 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
Rev. Fred Robinson, Associate Pastor	fredrick@holycovenantucc.org
Mr. Shea Watts, Director of Music Ministries	music@holycovenantucc.org
Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant	office@holycovenantucc.org

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ
3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510
www.holycovenantucc.org ~ 704-599-9810