



"Imagination is more important than knowledge. It is not enough to analyze the world as it is and ask, 'Why?'; we need to imagine the world as it might be and ask, 'Why not?'"

- ALBERT EINSTEIN

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER

April 28, 2019

Prelude

Dawn Anthony Quartet

Chiming of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Fred Robinson

One: The Easter joy of the living Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

*(Please pass the information pads so that all worshippers
might have the opportunity to sign them)*

Opening Voluntary

“Wade in the Water”

SPIRITUAL

Dawn Anthony Quartet

* Call to Worship

Cheri Dennis

One: God’s loving hands are outstretched to all Creation.

Many: **Let us stretch to grasp God’s hands with joy.**

One: God’s open hands give hope and courage to all.

Many: **Let us enter in to God’s abundant life and give thanks.**

One: In God’s hands are new life, strength, and salvation.

Many: **Let us be thankful and sing to God with gladness.**

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

* Hymn

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”
Dawn Anthony Quartet

by E.A. Hoffman

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

Refrain: Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms! (*Refrain*)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
I have peace complete with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms! (*Refrain*)

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”
Dawn Anthony Quartet

SPIRITUAL

I want Jesus to walk with me
I want Jesus to walk with me
All along my pilgrim's journey
I want Jesus to walk with me

In my trials, Lord, walk with me
In my trials, Lord, walk with me
When the shades of life are falling
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me

In my sorrows, Lord walk with me
In my sorrows, Lord walk with me
When my heart is aching
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me

Children's Offering & 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.)

Hebrew Lesson

Psalm 118

Robert Shepherd

paraphrased by Jim Taylor

God, you give to life its goodness; your love bursts the bounds of time.

You renew our confidence in you. With you beside us, we can face anything. We have no fears when you stand among us....

I want to be with God; I want to celebrate God's goodness to me.

God has tested me. God has put me through hell.

But God has never abandoned me.

Now I have the confidence to go anywhere, to try anything.

Whatever it takes, I know I'm worth it.

Once, I had no confidence in myself,

And I had no confidence in you, God.

I quivered with insecurities; I was a raw wound,

flinching from everything. Now I am transformed.

You hold me in your hands, and I shine.

Only you could do this. A new day has dawned for me, a new life has begun. Is it any wonder that I'm happy?

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

Many: Alleluia! Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Pastoral Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

Anthem

"Moanin"

by Bobby Timmons

Dawn Anthony Quartet

* Gospel Lesson

John 20: 19-23

Nancy Ellett Allison

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

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

Many: **Alleluia! Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 8:25-28

Fred Robinson

Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron, and said, 'Go, sacrifice to your God within the land.' But Moses said, 'It would not be right to do so; for the sacrifices that we offer to the Lord our God are offensive to the Egyptians. If we offer in the sight of the Egyptians sacrifices that are offensive to them, will they not stone us? We must go a three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as he commands us.' So Pharaoh said, 'I will let you go to sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness, provided you do not go very far away. Pray for me.'

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

Many: **Alleluia! Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

Sermon

“Prophetic Imagination:
Life beyond the Grip of Empire”

Fred Robinson

Offertory Invitation

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offering Music

“Throw It Away”
Dawn Anthony Quartet

by Abbey Lincoln

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

φ **Praise God who gives all blessings birth;
Praise God all creatures on the earth;
Praise God, who makes, sustains, sets free;
One holy God in persons three. Amen.**

* Offertory Dedication

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction

Fred Robinson

Postlude

Dawn Anthony Quartet

No matter who you are
or where you are on your journey,
you are welcome here!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

PLEASE SIGN OUR ATTENDANCE REGISTER

WELCOME to all who worship today at Holy Covenant! Guests and members, please sign an attendance register and then pass it back to its starting point, taking note of who is worshipping near you and greet them.

JAZZ WORSHIP TODAY

We are delighted to welcome the Dawn Anthony Quartet to lead us in worship as part of the Blumenthal Charlotte Shout Jazz Festival. Members of the band include Dawn Anthony, vocals; Sean Higgins, piano; Ocie Davis, drums; Mike Gudbaur, base.

PRACTICING MIDRASH, WEDNESDAYS

Nancy Allison will continue 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.

54TH ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE, JUNE 13-15

“Dreaming...What’s Possible with No Limit” MATTHEW 19:26

ENCA will host this gathering at Canterbury School in Greensboro, NC. HCUCC is allowed 2 lay delegates to be our voting voice. If you have interest, please speak with Pastor Nancy or contact Dawn in the office for registration before May 15, office@holycovenantucc.org. www.soc-ucc.org/annual-gathering

AIDS WALK CHARLOTTE, SATURDAY, MAY 4

Holy Covenant has organized a team to walk the 2 miles and raise some coins for the **Regional Aids Interfaith Network (RAIN)**. In its 23rd year, this is one of the largest HIV awareness & fundraising events in the Carolina's. HCUCC's Team has two (2) members & WE need your participation! Visit aidswalkcharlotte.org to join HCUCC Team & Sponsor this mission. We'll meet at 10:30 AM at Wells Fargo Atrium & Plaza for an easy 2 mile walk. Coordinator Bob Saylor, 704-239-7342 or bchs3201@aol.com.

STUDENT PANTRIES

Contributions to the Back Pack Ministry for local Elementary students and siblings and the UNCC Student pantry are welcomed. Look for the collection baskets in the Gathering Room.

MIGRANT BUS MINISTRY

The Charlotte Greyhound Migrant Assistance Project has coordinated greeters for the buses in order to provide much needed travel essentials for the Central American Migrants. Smaller adult size and all children’s sizes of socks and underwear, warm clothes (they are heading north!), snacks and drinks, toiletries and diapers are being collected to give to migrants as they pass through Charlotte en route on their journey to pursuit asylum. A collection box is available in the Gathering Room. Contact Suzanne Lamorey, Suzlam@yahoo.com, with questions or to participate in this welcoming.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome to those who are new to our adult Sunday School class, called The Sojourners! Our next book study will begin May 5 when we discuss pp. 1-30 of *This Is How It Always Is*, by Laurie Frankel. It's a fictional account

of a transgender child, his/her family, and their struggles. It will make you laugh and cry and teach you so much! The author has a transgender child herself, although the story is not about her child or her family. We gather in the conference room. All are welcome!

BOOK CLUB

Join us May 8, for a review of this month's read, *Salt Houses* by Hala Allan. Our discussion leader is Faye Humphrey. June 12th, the selected reading is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, discussion leader is Barbara Schneller. We gather at SouthPark Christian Church at 10:30 AM, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte.

HCUCC YOGA4ALL, WEDNESDAYS at 7:30 pm

We'll meet each Wednesday during May. 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 or 704-533-2142.

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>

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

Elder for April: Suzanne Lamorey, Suzlam@yahoo.com or 704-654-7267

Deacons for April: Martha Bomely, Cheryl Milam

Greeters: Laura Hankins, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, Mike Sladek, Eileen Howe

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley-Dennis, Terrance Hayes

Refreshments: Barb Schneller, Debbie Davis, Ann Watkins

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Eileen Howe in the death of her sister, Becki Minich; Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Mamie Stokes, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Anton Clark and family in the death of his wife, Regina

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), Amy Ciccone (Dawn Simmons), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Amy Madden (Robert Shepherd), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), 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), 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