



We have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of our civilization. There is still a voice crying out in terms that echo across the generations, saying: Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you, that you may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven. This love might well be the salvation of our civilization.

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

When I think of the act by which I should enter the Church, nothing gives me more pain than the idea of separating myself from the immense and unfortunate multitude of unbelievers.

I have the essential need, and I think I can say the vocation, to move among every class and complexion, mixing with them and sharing their life and outlook, so far that is to say as conscience allows, merging into the crowd and disappearing among them, so that they show themselves as they are, putting off all disguises with me.

It is because I long to know them so as to love them just as they are. For if I do not love them as they are, it will not be they whom I love, and my love will be unreal.

~Simone Weil

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

May 19, 2019

Prelude & Chiming of the Bells

Kathleen Smith

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

\* Call to Worship

Eileen Howe

One: Come! Come and worship,

Many: Come and worship, you who woke early and you who slept late;

One: Come and worship, you who come often, and you who visit.

Many: Come and worship, for whether we are first or last or somewhere in between, there is room for all of us in God's living world!

One: Come and worship, for there is more than enough grace, more than enough love, more than enough welcome to go around.

Many: Come! Let us worship God together!

\* Passing of the Peace

Eileen Howe

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   φ Sing Response ✕ Hymnals located below pews

\* Hymn 181

“You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”

BRING FORTH

You are the salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!

*Refrain:*

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;  
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God! (*refrain*)

You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God! (*refrain*)

We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God!  
(*refrain*)

Children’s Message

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

Nancy Ellett Allison

\* Gospel Lesson                    John 13:12-17, 33-35                    Fred Robinson  
After (Jesus) had washed (the disciples) feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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

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

Prayers of the People Fred Robinson

\* Hymn 498                  “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”                  CHEREPONI

**1. Knelt at the feet of his friends,  
si-lent-ly wash-ing their feet, Je-su, you act-ed as ser-vant to them.**

**Refrain:** Je-su, Je-su, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

**2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, var-ied in col-or and race,  
neigh-bors are near and far a-way. (*refrain*)**

3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you. (*refrain*)

**4. Lov-ing puts us on our knees, show-ing our faith by our deeds,  
serv-ing the neigh-bors we have from you. (refrain)**

**5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si-lent-ly wash-ing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you. (refrain)**

The Acts of the Apostles

11:1-18

Kim Buch

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?”

Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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

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

Sermon

“Beyond Boundaries”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Fred Robinson

Offering Music

\* Response of Thanksgiving

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

φ Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\* Offertory Dedication

Fred Robinson

\* Hymn 391 "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

NEW DIMENSIONS

1. In the midst of new di-men-sions  
In the face of chang-ing ways,  
Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples  
Wan-dering in their sep-areate ways?

*Refrain:* God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar  
Lead-ing where the ea-gles soar,  
We your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney  
Now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er-more.

2. Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple,  
War-ring fac-tions and de-spair,  
Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es?  
Who will light the flame of care? (*refrain*)

3. As we stand a world di-vid-ed  
By our own self-seek-ing schemes,  
Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage,  
Might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams. (*refrain*)

4. We are man and we are wom-an,  
All per-sua-sions, old and young  
Each a gift in your cre-a-tion,  
Each a love song to be sung. (*refrain*)

5. Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions  
Cause us to with-draw in pain,  
May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it  
Res-ur-rect the church a-gain. (*refrain*)

\* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

\* Benediction Response 581

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

φ Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,  
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
Let peace fill our universe.

Postlude

Kathleen Smith

### *Love Them Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments*

by Dr. Kent M. Keith

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.

*Love them anyway.*

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

*Do good anyway.*

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.

*Succeed anyway.*

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.

*Do good anyway.*

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.

*Be honest and frank anyway.*

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.

*Think big anyway.*

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.

*Fight for a few underdogs anyway.*

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

*Build anyway.*

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.

*Help people anyway.*

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.

*Give the world the best you have anyway.*

## 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.

### ALL CHURCH PICNIC AT LAKE NORMAN, JUNE 2

Let's begin summer with a celebration! Renee Brown and Kelly Gimlin have invited us to their home on Lake Norman (21425 Norman Shores Drive, Cornelius) for our all church picnic this year! Jim Dwiggins is making his famous BBQ, the Hospitality team will bring coleslaw and baked beans and we are each asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share, along with a blanket or chairs. Swimming and water activities will happen - bring a suit and towel, a life jacket or floats for the kids.

### NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

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

**9:30 am June 9 Who We Are / What We Believe**

**9:30 am June 16 UCC/Holy Covenant History**

**12:30 pm June 30 Elders and Deacon Luncheon Ministry Organizational Structure & Opportunities for Involvement**

We know it's a busy time with summer vacations, so to help us ensure this timing will work with your schedules, please email Debbie Davis at [Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com](mailto:Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com) to let her know you plan to attend. Childcare is available if needed.

### 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, juice boxes and water, toiletries and diapers. A collection box is available in the Gathering Room. Contact Suzanne Lamorey, [Suzlam@yahoo.com](mailto:Suzlam@yahoo.com), with questions or to participate in this welcoming.

**Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 943 for the 24 colorful string backpacks filled with a variety of drinks, snacks, toys, stuffed animals, handwritten notes and more as their Bronze Award Project!**

## **30 DAYS OF PRAYER BEGAN MAY 13: OUR DAY IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 29**

Holy Covenant has committed to joining with 29 other congregations in 30 days of prayer for the city of Charlotte and her citizens, for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and other public safety officials. Will you join with members of our Prayer Team by lifting up the city, lifting up those in despair, those who consider guns a solution to their problems, and our police, fire officers, medics and others who have an impact on gun violence and gun usage?

Let's pray every day, let's be specific on May 29!

## **PRACTICING MIDRASH, WEDNESDAYS**

Practicing Midrash meets Wednesdays from noon to 1PM at Holy Covenant.

## **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.

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

Welcome to those who are new to our adult Sunday School class, called The Sojourners! Our current book study is *This Is How It Always Is*, by Laurie Frankel. It's a fictional account of a transgender child, his/her family, and their struggles. All are welcome!

## **BOOK CLUB**

Join us 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**

If you have questions, contact David [davidsmith02b@gmail.com](mailto: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 May: Robert Shepherd, rshepvided@att.net or 704-618-1322

Deacons for May: Jim Hong, Gregg Walker

Greeters: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Johnson

Ushers: Tom Magraw, Suzanne Lamorey

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Southside Covenant Group

Recyclers: Suzanne Lamorey

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

### **Members**

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**

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), 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

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Rev. Fred Robinson, Associate Pastor

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Mr. Shea Watts, Director of Music Ministries

[music@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:music@holycovenantucc.org)

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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Ms. Kathleen Smith, Accompanist

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