



Unsplash Photo by Ethan Hu

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn life around.”

- Anonymous

We don't have to make huge changes.
Just small change after small change,
which eventually amounts to great change.”

- Monica Berg

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PALM & PASSION SUNDAY**

March 24, 2024, 10:55 am

** Your whole self is welcomed here. Please feel free to take care of your body during worship in ways that work for you.*

Prelude "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" arr. J. Carter

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Choral Introit "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" arr. M. K. Beall

* Call to the Heart Ed Vickery
Please take a comfortable posture that supports your worshiping, reading, and singing...

One: Jesus is coming! Quickly, let us gather!

Many: **From the mountains, from the seas, from the rural areas and the city streets.**

One: Jesus is coming! Quickly, let us gather!

Many: **From the bedsides of the sick, from the homes of the rich and where the poor have been forced to dwell.**

One: Jesus is coming! Quickly, let us gather!

Many: **Whether we are friends, strangers, neighbors, outcasts, faithful or faithless.**

One: Look! Jesus is coming to Jerusalem! Coming to triumph in love! Will we greet him with Hosannas?

Many: **Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

* Hymn 213

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

ELLACOMBE

“Hosanna, loud hosanna” the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,
And glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey’s gait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song is ours.
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:
“Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we’ll rejoice!”

* Invocation (*unison*)

Ed Vickery

This Palm Sunday, we embrace the unexpected entrance of Jesus. We shout “Hosanna!” as we join his walk toward freedom and follow his path towards wholeness. May our hearts ache for justice and mercy, and weep for peace and freedom. May we walk in solidarity with the oppressed and bring life to the broken and sick. Let us touch and see the presence of God draw near, living, moving, and breathing among us triumphantly. Amen.

* Hymn 11

“Bring Many Names”

WESTCHASE

Bring many names, beautiful and good,
Celebrate, in parable and story,
Holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! bring many names!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
Calmly piercing evil’s new disguises,
Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
Crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

Daily Affirmation

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Yourself: “The Christ within me is glorious and victorious!”

Neighbor: “The Christ within you is glorious and victorious!”

World: “The Christ within us is glorious and victorious!”

Prayer of Transformation & New Life (*unison*)

Ed Vickery

God of mercy, today, as we witness Jesus bravely ride into Jerusalem, we acknowledge the ways we cower from worldly power, choosing fear instead of courage, arrogance over humbleness, and oppression in face of cries for liberation. Forgive us for the ways we’ve withheld our best selves and help us to change. Help us to renew our determination to live as boldly and fearlessly as Jesus did. Amen.

Words of Grace

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Dear ones, Jesus showed us change is always possible. That we can be transformed in both mind and spirit. Wherever we are on our spiritual journey right now, may we have the courage to behold what God is seeking to do within us and through us. May we ride on in humility and hope, holding to the promise of a new day and new ways. Amen.

Song

“Nothing Can Trouble”

NADA TE TURBE

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.

Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.

God alone fills us.

Stories for All People

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Handbell Anthem

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. M. & S. Eithun

Diane Neese, Dawn Robinson, Dawn Simmons, Sally McLester

UNC Food Pantry Ministry

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Today, we celebrate the ministry and participation from Holy Covenant UCC that led to the creation of what is known today as the Jamil Niner Student Pantry at UNC Charlotte, which was co-founded by one of our own members, Kim Buch. After years of participation, this ministry work is now complete and is being retired from Holy Covenant UCC and moved into the hands of other supporting organizations.

Hymn

“All Our Work and All Our Being”

THREDDINGWORTH

**All our work and all our being come from you, most gracious Lord.
Ev’ry task which lies before us is Creator’s will outpoured.
Help us as we build your kin-dom, know we labor not in vain;
Give us sure and deep conviction for the tasks that you ordain.**

**Some may nurture those who hunger, tend and heal the broken heart;
Set our flagging spirits dancing, spark our vision through their art.
Others teach and offer counsel, bear life’s burdens, ease its care;
Strive for justice, peace, and freedom for all people ev’rywhere.**

**Let us labor in the knowledge that no task can be too small;
That the God who stretched the heavens no less shaped the least of all.
Give us strength, Lord, to accomplish what you set our hands to do,
That by serving those around us, we return the gift to you.**

Hebrew Lesson

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (CEB)

Ed Vickery

Our Hebrew Lesson for today comes from Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, where the psalmist speaks of God’s goodness and everlasting mercy...

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,
because his faithful love lasts forever.

Let Israel say it:

“God’s faithful love lasts forever!”

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

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

* Hymn

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

LOVE UNKNOWN

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake my God should take frail flesh and die?

Christ came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow,
But people scorned and none the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they threw down palms and sweetest praises sang.
Hosannas and glad psalms through streets and markets rang.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
And for his death they thirst and cry.

What has my Sovereign done? What makes this rage and spite?
Christ gave new strength to run, restored the gift of sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease and 'gainst Christ rise.

As We Part

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Passing from joy into sorrow and on to elation, we come to Christ this holy week.
Today is only a part of the story. Jesus' triumph leads to his death, his death to
his resurrection. May the journey of this week lead you into the fullness of
Christ's love.

Postlude

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

arr. C.B. Putnam

Songs in this service are used by permission.

CCLI License #11439355; CSPL164710

*Parts of the liturgy for today's service were written and adapted by UCC
Worship Ways and Rev. Christopher Czarnecki.*

*Candid photographs and/or video recording share our work and witness
and invite others into the fellowship of our congregation. Some pictures/video
may be published in church print publications, on our website or on our
official social media sites. If you do not wish to have your image published,
please contact the church office by phone or email.*

WE PROVIDE OUR EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME WITH HELP FROM:

Terry Raley-Dennis, D Evans, Brian Hankins, Jo Ann Jellison

We welcome all in our congregation to participate! Greeters and ushers, liturgists and readers are needed starting at 10:30 every Sunday.

Please sign up in the Gathering Room or on the SignUpGenius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ACAD23A2FE3-ushers>

Holy Week at Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:00pm

Easter, March 31, 10:55am with Egg Hunt following worship

Come early & bring fresh flowers for the cross.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Mel Andersen, Linda Carver, Kevin Decker, Kevin & Jeff Edwards-Knight, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Jim Humphrey, Sharon Landis, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Alice Phelan & Sally Young, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry Rhyne, Ed & Beth Sharp, Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Shakti Subramanian, Anita Taylor

Friends & Family Members

Nancy Roha and family in the unexpected death of her daughter, Connie
Melissa Brown, Phillip Cherry (Anne Pigg), Gregg Clare (Kathleen Wagner), Craig Chrismon (Melissa Noll), Deby Gumper (Dawn Simmons), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), the Jeffreys family (Kathleen Wagner), Darin Jellison (Jo Ann Jellison), Dave Johnson, Judah L. Jones & Bill Englebreth, Matty & Simone McKinnon (Joy Decker), Roxanne & Moose Meyer (Dana Endsley & Mike Yonkovig), Suzie & John Robinson (Dana Endsley & Mike Yonkovig), Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), Joyce Ward (Ed Vickery), Janet Wakefield (Linda Burby), John Zastrow (Barb Schneller)

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to
prayers@holycovenantucc.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

Stay connected! There are many new events in our future! Check out all the current happenings in the weekly newsletter via Constant Contact. *Not seeing it in your inbox? Sign-up here:*
<https://holycovenantucc.org/newsletters/>

Sojourners Class, Sundays at 9:45am

We gather Sundays at 9:45am in the Conference Room, or via Zoom

Crafter's circle meets Mondays at 1:30pm

Bring a craft, learn a craft. Join us in the Gathering Room. All are welcome!

Sandwich Build, April 14

Following worship on Sunday, April 14, we will make 400 sandwiches to be delivered to A Roof Above the next Monday. All are welcomed, and no experience is necessary!

2024 UCC Creation Care Art Contest

Calling all kids! Join the UCC Vote for Climate Hope Art Contest. Children and Youth under age 18 are invited to draw, paint, or color about the world and the environment in which they want to live. The winners will have their art printed on thousands of voter pledge cards to be collected by UCC members and sent to Congress. See JoAnn Jellison for a worksheet, due in by April 16th. We'd love to have your artistic interpretation!

<https://www.ucc.org/vote-for-climate-hope-campaign/>

Charlotte's 2024 AIDS Walk, May 18

Questions? Please let Debbie Davis know at Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com.

AIDS WALK Charlotte 2024 - Holy Covenant United Church of Christ (onecause.com)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki, MDiv, MBA, Senior Pastor

RevChris@holycovenantucc.org, 314-402-8167

Jon Weddell, MDiv, MSW, Minister of Music

Dawn Simmons, BSBF, Executive Assistant

Mailing address: PO Box 481285, Charlotte NC 28269
3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510
www.holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810