



**Qi He,
Adoration of the Magi**



Silent Meditation

"Without the quest, there can be no epiphany."

~ Constantine E. Scaros

"What you're looking for is already inside you. You've heard this before, but the holy thing inside you really is that which causes you to seek it."

~ Anne Lamott

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."

~ Marcel Proust

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 1, 2017

Gathering Music

David A. Smith

Chiming of the Bell

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

David A. Smith

* Call to Worship

Jeff Edwards-Knight

One: The days are beginning to grow longer,

Many: The Light of the world is Jesus.

One: Hopes for the New Year are blooming,

Many: The Light of the world is Jesus.

One: Arise; shine, for your Light has come!

Many: We are called out of our darkness into the Light.

One: The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness cannot overcome it!

All: We join together in worship to be light to the world!

* Passing of the Peace

One: Come, 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*

* Sing Along

“Christmas Joy Medley”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo...

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo...

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Children’s Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

ALL: As we light these candles, we remember the words of Jesus the Christ: ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life...If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’

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

Gift in Song

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

Barry Holcomb

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:13-18 Martha Bomely, Phil Kaveler

Now after they had left, an angel of the Living God appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by God through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

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

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

Pastoral Prayer

Steven Burleson

Unison Prayer

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy;

And where there is darkness, light.

Grant that we 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, in pardoning that we are pardoned, and in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:19-23

Andrew Kaveler

When Herod died, an angel of the Living God suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

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

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

Meditation

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Gregg Walker

(Parents are welcome to bring their children in from Children's Church to join them in receiving communion.)

Offertory Music

David A. Smith

*Offering Response 139

"First Nowell"

First Nowell

ϕ **Then entered in those magi three,
And bending low upon their knee
They offered there, in great reverence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Nowell - Born is the King of Israel.**

* Offertory Dedication

Gregg Walker

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

One: May the Light breaking forth this day be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Let us open our hearts to the Light of Christ, born long ago, and born again in our lives.

Many: **We open our hearts to God, to Christ the Light of the world, and to one another - our brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Many: GREENSLEEVES

φ *Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises.
We gather on this holy day. We gather at this table.
Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

One: We celebrate the coming of the Light of the world; we have prayed for that light to enter our lives and our world.

Many: **Yet we confess that there have been times when we have obscured the light for others through insensitivity and prejudice, through the use of careless and hurtful words or selfish and destructive actions.**

(Silent Confession)

One: Come Lord Jesus, be light for our darkness and empower us with your Spirit to be faithful bearers of your light into all the shadowy and clouded areas of people's lives.

Many:

φ *The Word-made-flesh, Emmanuel; God, come to live among us!
He preached good news: the kingdom come!
A light shone in the darkness. Nails, spear shall pierce Him through!
The Cross be borne for me for you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh; the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Wine

Many:

**☉ *Pour out your Spirit, Holy God, upon these gifts, and bless them.
Make them for us the Bread of Life, the Cup of our Salvation!
Raise, raise the song on high! Dear Mary sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!***

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.
(Communion is received by intinction. Take a wafer or bread and dip it into the cup to receive both elements. Gluten free wafers are available.)

Carols during Communion

124

“Away in a Manger”

MÜLLER

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes,
I love you, Lord Jesus, protect me, I pray,
And stay by my side until night turns to day.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
2. Our God, transcends all heaven, earth and its domain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.
3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
4. What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise One, I would do my part;
but what I can I offer: all my heart.

* Prayer after Communion

φ *Thank God for Holy Mystery; Body of Christ; the gift of life!
As we depart, let us take heart: God's light will lead us always!
Raise, raise the song on high! Dear Mary sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response (391)

NEW DIMENSIONS

φ *In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate way?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, Leading where the eagle's soar,
We your people, ours the journey,
Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.*

Postlude

David A. Smith

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT-HARRIS

PLEASE SEE USHERS FOR LARGE PRINT BULLETINS

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.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO CHRIST'S TABLE

Jesus made it a practice to eat with those identified as both saints and sinners. Because each of us carries that dual identity: saint and sinner, we welcome all to Christ's table of celebration. Communion is received by intinction; we invite you to take a piece of bread or a gluten free wafer and dip it into the communion cup (containing juice) to receive both elements.

JOIN OUR NEW MEMBER - INQUIRER'S CLASSES THIS JANUARY

If you would like to learn more about our congregation and the United Church of Christ, we would encourage you to attend our Inquirer's Classes Sundays at 9:30AM. **January 22: Who We Are & What We Believe, January 29, History of UCC & Holy Covenant, February 5: Organization & Opportunities for Involvement.** We will welcome new members on February 12. Please contact Debbie Davis, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com, if you are interested in joining the church and/or attending these classes.

NEW LIFE IN GUATEMALA

THANK YOU! We have raised over \$1000 for this project. We would welcome any additional last minute gifts. Please let Nancy or Dawn know if you are able to give through Sinapi and your place of work. In partnership with Piedmont UU congregation we are working to raise \$10,000 for this community for two consecutive years. Purchase an ear of corn for \$100.* Purchase a cup full of Cocoa for \$10.* Make checks payable to HCUCC, with Guatemala in memo line. (*If your organization does matching gifts, give through the Sinapi Foundation.)

CONSISTORY RETREAT

Our Consistory will gather the weekend of January 20 & 21 to begin discussing ways to best serve Holy Covenant. If you have any concerns you would like to share with the leadership team, please feel free to contact one of them. Officers for the New Year are: Jeff Hughes, President; Jeff Edwards-Knight, Vice-President, Cheryl Milam, Secretary, & Diane Neese, Treasurer. Other members of Consistory include: Yvette Ross, Renee Brown, Micheal Hall, Karen Long, Michael Baldonado, Faye Humphrey, Joe Behr-Stenzel, Lynn Chavarria, Sally Duffy, Kathleen Smith, Martha Bomely, and Jim Hong.

CONSISTORY ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

We will ordain our new elders and deacons of the Class of 2019 and install our officers during worship on January 22, 2017.

Elder for January:

Michael Baldonado, michaelbaldonado@hotmail.com or 502-541-5957

Greeters: Sue Pascucci, Barbara Schneller

Ushers: Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barb Schneller, Moses Taylor

Media: Brian Hankins

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

Tabulators: Terry Raley-Dennis, Kelly Gimlin

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Frank Carbone was admitted to a Rehab center in Rock Hill. Please remember him and Charlotte.

Gail Bushman, Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Diane Garvey, Karen Griffin, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Yami Senturias, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Matthew Christian, (Beth Sharp), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Bill Funderburk (Donna Collins), CD & Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), Carrie McLelland (Joe McLelland), Jay Patel (Karen Griffin), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Tommy Simpson (Cynthia Simpson), Dakota Wolfe (Linda Burby)

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor

Mr. Jared Fischer, Music Director

Mr. Steven Burleson, Youth & Young Adult Pastor

Mr. Gregg Walker, Ministry Intern

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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