



*Attention is love, what we must give
children, mothers, fathers, pets,
our friends, the news, the woes of others.
What we want to change we curse and then
pick up a tool. Bless whatever you can
with eyes and hands and tongue.
If you can't bless it, get ready to make it new.
~ Marge Piercy*

**Hope has two beautiful daughters.
Their names are Anger and Courage:
Anger at the way things are and
the Courage to see they do not remain that way.
~ Augustine**

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*advent conspiracy - breathing in hope
second sunday in advent*

December 4, 2016

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of the Christ Child be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

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

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Martha Bomely

One: In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

Many: **We come to be inspired by stories of a Messiah who will change the world—and change us.**

One: We come to listen for words of hope and joy, promise and challenge to sustain us through difficult days and trying times.

Many: **We come to receive the blessings God has in store for us in this season of fierce waiting.**

One: Come! Let us worship our God— the One who brings all things to fulfillment.

* Passing of the Peace

Martha Bomely

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 116

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
(*stanzas 1,2,6,7*)

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and night;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And help us in that way to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night,
And death's own shadow's put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, Desire of Nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

“The Word”

by Steve Schallert

The word, the word, the word
There has always been the word
But then the word took on flesh
Like a homeless baby in distress.
Jesus walked into the fray
To prove a reconciling way
The word, the word, the living, saving word

Oh my heart, my heart, my heart,
Like the sea that once did part
To keep the devils at bay,
From left to right it sways
Like a tired ocean wave,
All my heart now craves is the word, the word,
The living, saving word

*Chorus: From darkness, to darkness, to darkness, to light
The word became flesh to bring dead things to life*

Yet it's a groaning, groaning world
Where even the trees are begging for
A new place to lay their roots
Where wars for oil will not destroy.
We know a peace that lasts beyond a day,
A hope that's deep enough to stay the world,
The world. The living, saving word. *Chorus*

Bridge: We know a peace that lasts beyond a day
It's a hope that's deep enough to stay
A peace that lasts beyond a day
It's a hope that's deep enough
We know a peace that lasts beyond a day
It's a hope that's deep enough to stay the world,
The world. The living, saving word.

Lighting the Advent Candle Lynn Chavarria & Karen Griffin

One: We lit the first advent candle as a symbol of peace.

Many: **We light it again remembering the prophet's vision of a sustaining peace throughout creation.**

One: We light the second advent candle as a symbol of the hope which will always be brought to birth in, through and among those who walk in an awareness of God's supporting presence.

Many: **We affirm that we are a people of God willing to walk and live in partnership with all. We celebrate when we can also work with those who seek to be people of peace.**

ALL: **Hope nourishes our spirits and enables our work in this world. As we live with kindness and strength we build up a wild hope giving us the courage to live our days fully.**

(Two candles are lit.)

Advent Carol 117 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” TRURO

φ **A Helper just, Christ comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His royal crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.**

Children's Offering & Message Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Pastoral Prayer Gregg Walker

Anthem “I Wonder As I Wander” TRADITIONAL

Dorrie Hankins, soprano; Bill Tyler, french horn

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Isaiah 11:1-9 Gregg Walker

(The Message)

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

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

Sermon “Hope of the World” Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Gregg Walker

Offertory Music

Jared Fischer

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

φ To God all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.

* Offertory Dedication

Gregg Walker

Sacrament of Holy Communion

* One: We invite all who celebrate Christ's life and love to join us at this table of fellowship. As we join together in Holy Communion we invite all to join in singing our faith as Christians:

* Many: φ *As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.*

BEACH SPRING

One: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "Take, eat: This is my body, broken for you." In like manner, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for all for the forgiveness of sins."

Many: φ *Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.
Turn our worship into witness
in this sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.*

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

Many: **Amen.**

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Music during Communion “My Only” by John Mark McMillan

All day long, we are sinking just like stones
Into the shadow of Your kindness
In this shade between the wingspan of Your grace is
The only place where we can bed these burdens down, so I

**Lift my eyes up to the hills. Who is going to help me now?
You're my only, you're my only, you're my only hope**

Tangled up in the great ridiculous way You love
Is the only way to live
There's no escape, when your eyes pierce through the fray
I stare like a deer into the headlights of Your ways, and I
And You come like the sun with pockets full of redemption
and You come with the sun, with the sun.

*Please come forward as directed by the ushers
for the Sharing of the Elements.*

**All: ϕ *Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us,
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.***

*** Benediction**

Nancy Ellett Allison

*** Benediction Response 46**

ANCIENT OF DAYS

**ϕ *Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:
still let your Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end our bitter strife.***

Postlude

Jared Fischer

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.

HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN **ON SECOND SUNDAYS**

December 11, January 8, February 12, March 12

DECEMBER SIGN UP- Please reconfirm your service for December 11, as the original sheet was misplaced. Check the signup sheet in the Gathering Room...there are many ways you can help to welcome our neighbors in need.

A HOLIDAY LOVE OFFERING FOR THE HCUCC STAFF AND CLERGY

Please consider contributing to a Holiday Love Offering to be divided for our HCUCC clergy and staff. We have a wonderful, dedicated team who works hard to make Holy Covenant a place of welcome, warmth, and spiritual renewal. Please give your gifts to Robbie Furr by Dec 11th to allow time to organize and distribute gifts on December 18. You can reach Robbie at robbie@holycovenantucc.org or 704-453-9042.

BOOK CLUB GATHERING-NEW LOCATION

Beginning Monday, December 12 at 11am, join us at SouthPark Christian Church, **6650 Park South Drive**, for a discussion of Graham Moore's *Last Days of Night*. Future titles include: January 9, *Only Yesterday: An Informal History of 1920s in America*, by Frederick Lewis Allen. February 13, *Home Going*, by Yan Gyasi. All are welcome!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Sojourners will wrap up discussions of *The End of White Christian America* this Sunday, Dec. 4. The next book study will be about *The Hundred Story Home: A Journey of Homelessness, Hope, and Healing* by Kathy Izard. All are welcome to join us each Sunday morning at 9:45.

YOGA WEDNESDAYS 7:30PM

Join David Smith and friends, prizmsongs@gmail.com. **December 14th, we'll start at 7:45PM** in the conference room, so you can attend the Service of Comfort and Hope.

advent conspiracy

CONSPIRE: Make secret plans jointly to commit a hidden action

LATE MIDDLE ENGLISH- from Latin *conspirare* agree & plot, from *con-* together with + *spirare* breathe.

CONSPIRACY: Make Advent plans jointly to breathe in peace, hope, love and joy

LATE HOLY COVENANT- from Latin lighting candles to songs of celebration
let us conspire to bring our souls into the Christmas season.

December 11, 10:55 am

advent three: breathe in love

December 14, 7:00pm

service of comfort & hope

Join us for a service of healing, wholeness and hope; a time of prayer, music and meditation, as we support one another and lift praise to God.

December 18, 10:55 am

advent four: breathe in joy

Celebrating our Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir,
Music Cooperative and Ensembles

December 24, 5:00 pm

chili & soup supper

December 24, 7:00 pm

christmas eve

Candlelight service welcoming the Christ child

December 25, 10:55 am

christmas day

Celebrating in scripture & song

*We will have a fully staffed nursery / preschool each Sunday during
Advent, Christmas Eve and New Years Day!*

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

Elder of the Month: Yvette Ross

Greeters: Bill Hildebrand, Connie Hildebrand

Media: Brian Hankins

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

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Julie Klever

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Leanne Bushman, Gail Bushman, Charlotte Carbone, Tina Ettesen, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Diane Garvey, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Terry Parrish, Yami Senturias, Sheryl Stogner, Kathleen Wagner

Friends & Family Members

Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Matthew Christian (Beth Sharp), Hunter Dalton and family (Terry Parrish), 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), Carrie McLelland (Joe McLelland), Sarah Mitchell (Scottie Foster), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Tommy Simpson (Cynthia Simpson), Charles Weaver (Susan Rettberg)

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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