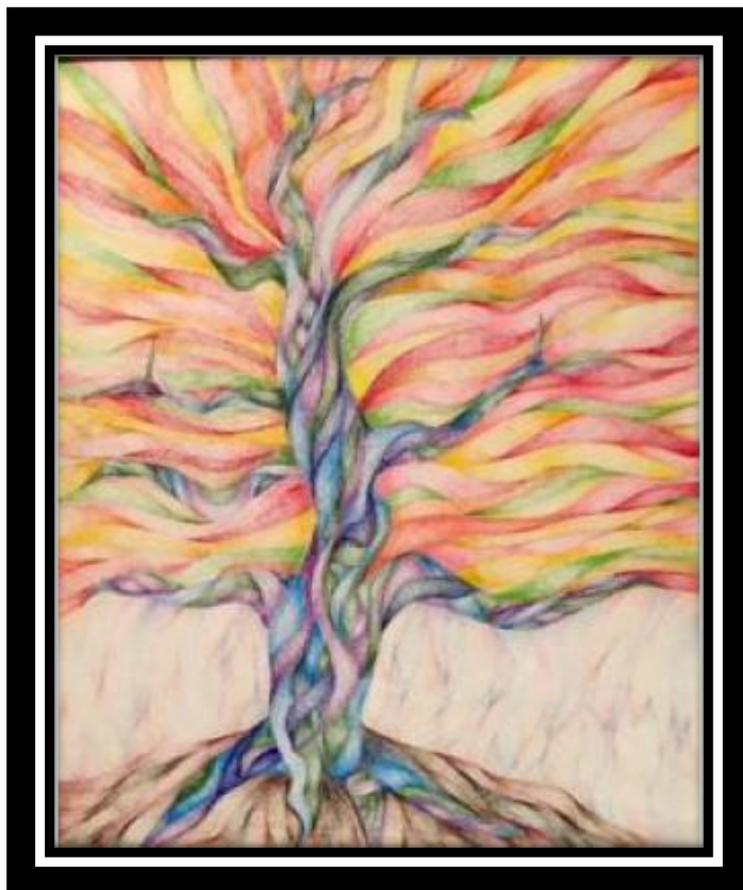




*Art work by
Sydney Brown,
"Flames of Life"*



Silent Meditation

“It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power,
is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.”

–James A. Baldwin

“What makes the temptation of power so seemingly irresistible?

Maybe it is that power offers an easy substitute for the
hard task of love. It seems easier to be God than to love God,
easier to control people than to love people,
easier to own life than to love life.”

- Henri J.M. Nouwen

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONFIRMATION & FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 5, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

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.)*

* Call to Worship

Elena Houlihan

One: Holy One, do not bring us to the time of trials...

Many: **Deliver us from harmful desires which ensnare us and our neighbors.**

One: Gracious One, give us the bread of life...

Many: **May we eat and be filled with gratitude for each new day.**

One: Divine King, bring your kingdom to us now...

Many: **That we may know peace in our land, now and forever.**

One: Your will be done.

All: **Here. Now. In this place.**

* Passing of the Peace

Elena Houlihan

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 ✕ Seating by Ushers*

* Hymn 211

“Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days”

ST. FLAVIAN

1. Lord Je-sus, who through for-ty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
2. As you with Sa-tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,
O give us strength to per-se-vere, in you to con-quer sin.
3. And through these days of pen-i-tence, and through this Pas-sion-tide,
Yes, ev-er-more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a-bide.
4. A-bide with us, till when this life of suf-fering shall past,
An Eas-ter of un-end-ing joy we may at-tain at last.

Children’s Offering & Message

Youth

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

Call to Prayer

“Return to God”

Marty Haugen

(Congregation sings twice)

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the
Source of grace and mer - cy; come seek the ten - der
faith - ful - ness of God.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Return to God" by Marty Haugen. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics: "Re - turn to God with all your heart, the". The second staff contains the second line: "Source of grace and mer - cy; come seek the ten - der". The third staff contains the third line: "faith - ful - ness of God." and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The melody is simple and suitable for congregational singing.

Silent Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to You our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. When our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing Your will; When we are tempted to use the gifts You give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others; forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in You.

Do a new thing within and among us, as together we pray...

The Lord's Prayer (*feel free to use alternate "Our Father who art.."*)

Our God in whom is heaven, hallowed be your name.....

Assurance of Pardon

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: As our sins are cast away, releasing their hold over our lives, before God and you who are near me, I release anything I hold against you; I regret all I have done to harm you; I stand beside the wrong in my life and ask God's forgiveness.

Many: As our sins are cast away, releasing their hold over our lives, before God and you who are near, we release anything we hold against one another; we regret all the harm we have done; we stand beside the wrong in our lives and ask God's forgiveness.

One: Jesus says to us, each one: "Go and sin no more, come and follow me."

Many: Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Word in Witness “To Have Power Over Others”
by Francis Duggan

Justine Hughes

To have power over others is something one does not need
For tis only by good example that one can ever lead
And many with power over others their power they do abuse
And for those who abuse others there cannot be an excuse.

If you wish to be a leader some sort of form of power you crave
And what it takes to be a great leader is to be understanding kind and brave
But leaders with such qualities to say the least seem rare
To some very ordinary people they do favorably compare.

For to have power over others a good person does not desire
And many power hungry people are those we should not admire

Power over others and personal power are different from night and day
We all do need some personal power for to serve survival's way.

To have power over others is something one can do without
And on those who desire such powers one has to cast some doubt
They seem to be control freaks with darkness of the soul
The lives of other people they do need to control.

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

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

Extending our Welcome

Receiving our Confirmands

Joining our congregation through confirmation are Micah Baldonado, Sydney Brown, Elena Houlihan, Jocelyn Hughes, and Justine Hughes.

Questions & Responses of the Confirmands

Steven Burleson

* Commitment by the Congregation

Steven Burleson

One: Will the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ please rise and join in offering our commitments and welcome.

Many: We welcome each of you and celebrate your journey of faith. We promise to search with you for truth in Scripture and beyond; to walk with you in joy and sorrow; to support you, laugh with you, share silence, song and sacrament and to grow in Christian love and mutual appreciation. We will rely on God's sustaining presence as we journey forward together.

Mentors: On behalf of the entire congregation, it is our pleasure to welcome you as full members of this church. We graciously extend the hand of fellowship and look forward in anticipation to what the future will hold for all of us.

Prayer of Commitment

Steven Burleson

* Song of Response

“Future/Past”

You hold the reins on the sun and the moon
Like horses driven by kings
You cover the mountains, the valleys below
With the breadth of your mighty wings

All treasures of wisdom and things to be known
e hidden inside your hand
And in this fortunate turn of events
You ask me to be your friend
You ask me to be your friend

*Chorus: And you, you are my first, you are my last,
You are my future and my past. 2x*

The constellations are swimming inside
The breadth of your desire
Where could I run, where could I hide
From your heart’s jealous fire

All treasures of wisdom and things to be known
Are hidden inside your hand
And in this fortunate turn of events
You ask me to be your friend
You ask me to be your friend *Chorus*

You are the beginning and the end *Instrumental to Chorus*

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 4:1-11

Jocelyn Hughes

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan!" for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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 "The Temptation of Lesser Things" Steven Burleson

Song of Reflection "Lesser Things" Music Cooperative

Offertory Invitation Nancy Ellett Allison

Offering Music Rondo: "Alla Turca" W. A. Mozart
Micah Baldonado

* Doxology 776 OLD HUNDREDTH

φ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Spirit, creatures here below.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts;
Praise God, the Source of all our gifts! Amen.**

* Offertory Dedication Nancy Ellett Allison

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Institution

Nancy Ellett Allison

Prayer of Consecration

*Communion is received by intinction. Please take bread or a gluten free wafer and dip it into the cup to receive both elements.
The Communion elements are bread and grape juice.*

Music during Communion “There is Nothing Greater Than Grace”

Jared Fischer, piano; Robbie Furr, vocals

What do you say to someone who feels like they've lost it all;
Over the edge with no one there to break the fall.
And what do you say to someone who feels so unloved,
Giving themselves away, a little bit every day, just to be good enough.
What do you say to a hopeless soul who can't remember their way home
Everything is out of their control.

There is no valley, there is no darkness,
There is no sorrow greater than the grace of Jesus.
There is no moment, there is no distance,
There is no heartbreak God can't take you through.
So before you think that you're too lost to save,
Remember there is nothing greater than grace.

What do you say to someone who's life is on the line
And they're unsure what happens after their last breath.
What do you say to a life of regret that's trying so hard to forget
What do you say to dreams unmet

So don't lose hope, don't let go.
Don't give up, you are not alone.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

We give thanks to you our God for sustaining us for the journey;
 For bringing love, life, health and holiness,
 For bringing us closer to you,
 For knowing you are with us in our waiting;
 You are with us in our living. Amen.

* Benediction

Steven Burleson

* Benediction Response

“Guide My Feet”

Spiritual

Guide my feet while I run this race; (3x)

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. Chord markings are placed above the vocal line.

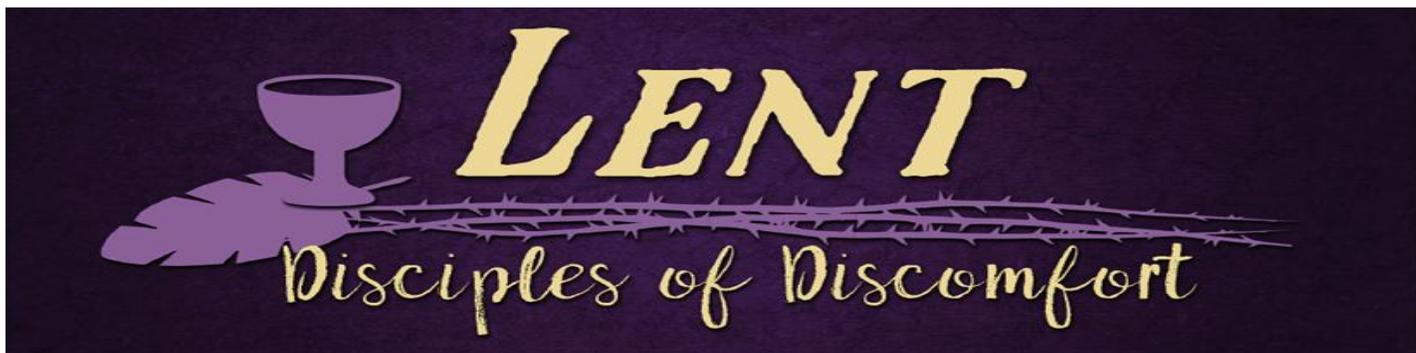
System 1:
 Chords: Ab, Ab, Ab, Db/Ab, Ab, Ab
 Lyrics: 1. Guide my feet while I run this race. Guide my

System 2:
 Chords: Ab, Ab/Eb, Eb7, Ab, Ab/C, Ab, Ab, Ab, Db/Ab
 Lyrics: feet while I run this race. Guide my feet while I run this

System 3:
 Chords: Ab, Fm, Ab/Eb, Ab/Eb, Db/Eb, Ab, Db/Ab, Ab
 Lyrics: race, for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain)

Postlude

Jared Fischer



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.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MARCH 12

WE NEED YOU PRESENT FOR OUR QUORUM! On the recommendation of our Budget & Finance Team, Consistory is calling for a Congregational Meeting following worship on March 12 for the purpose of re-negotiating the terms of our current loan. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Jeff Hughes, Consistory President, JeffH@holycovenantucc.org, or Martha Bomely, Budget & Finance Chair, MarthaB@holycovenantucc.org.

DIVING LESSONS, 2017 Lent Devotional Now Available

A DAY APART, SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 10 AM - 3 PM

"Taste and see that the Lord is good" will be our theme for this sensual day of exploration. How do we engage ALL of our senses in the spiritual? Celebrate the glories of God and a beautiful spring with opportunities for spiritual nourishment through poems, scripture, sight, smell, sound, tasting, walking, and opportunities for sharing with others. New member, Rev. Anne Findlay-Chamberlain, who is earning certification as a spiritual director, will join Nancy in leading the retreat day. **RSVP to office@holycovenantucc.org.**

CREATION JUSTICE PATHWAYS IN NC, MARCH 25, 9 AM - 2:30 PM
Parkway United Church of Christ, 2151 Silas Creek Parkway, W-Salem.
Please RSVP interest for carpooling to Diane Rogers,
diane@cpmcraftsman.com.

BORN ON THIRD BASE? MARCH 26, 12:30 POTLUCK & DIALOGUE

Anne VanNewkirk, a leader with Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, will help us think together what it means to be a person of privilege. If we are to increase our understanding of racial equity, we have to understand the hidden ways some groups are advantaged over others. This will be an engaging time of discovery and discernment! Bring a dish to share and continue our Lenten Journey.

PRAYER AND FASTING OR MEATLESS MONDAY?

Changing our habits and fasting from a meal once a week (lunch each Thursday?) allows individuals to use the time which would have been devoted to eating to instead devote it to prayer and meditation. Going meatless once a week has health benefits and also helps reduce our carbon footprint. These focused changes of habit can also become a devotional practice.

ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERS

We make the road by walking....Sometimes a companion on the journey makes all the difference in our expedition. If you would like to share your Lenten disciplines with another member, please let us know and we will connect you with a partner. Sign up on Friendship Pad or speak to Nancy or Kathi Smith following worship.

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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