



transforming faith
HOLY COVENANT UCC

Silent Meditation

“I believe in the resurrection sure. But I also believe in the tomb. I believe that darkness is crucial to the story.” ... “You’re in the tomb. So look around. See what it has to offer. You won’t be here forever.”

~ Kaethe Schwehn

Hope unbelieved is always considered nonsense. But hope believed is history in the process of being changed. The nonsense of the resurrection became the hope that shook the Roman Empire and established the Christian movement. The nonsense of slave songs in Egypt and Mississippi became the hope that let the oppressed go free. The nonsense of a bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala, became the hope that transformed a nation.

~ Jim Wallis

I believe in the resurrection of Jesus, like I believe that the sun is shining. Not that I can look directly at it, because you can't, but because in the light of it I can see everything else.

~ N.T. Wright



HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RESURRECTION SUNDAY

April 16, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: The Easter joy of the living Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: **Christ is risen indeed!**

Opening Voluntary “The Angel Rolled the Stone Away” arr. S. Cleobury
Holy Covenant Women’s Chorus

* Celebration of Faith

Martha Bomely

One: Living God, rejoicing in this day of resurrection, we have come to celebrate the strength of your love; a love that triumphs even over death.

Many: **As we exult in the miracle of your incarnate love, we thank you for the opportunity to encounter the Risen Christ here in our midst.**

One: We gather together to sing and pray and tell the story we know by heart, a story of loving triumph and powerful grace.

Many: **This story of “Alleluia!” means great joy for the One who lives and the ones who witness to this new life in all the places of our lives!**

* *All rise in body or spirit* ☩ *Sing Response* ✕ *Hymnals located below pews*

One: We rejoice and thank you for the life of your Son, resurrected by the power of your loving, vibrant Spirit.

Many: **Let this same Spirit fill all the places of our lives, that we may know the truth of resurrection in our lives.**

One: We join our hearts in song and to celebrate that “Christ the Lord is Risen Today!” Alleluia to the Living Christ!

All: **Alleluia, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!**

* Hymn 233

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

David A. Smith, trumpet; Bill Tyler, French horn

1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
Mor-tal tongues and an-gels say: Al-le-lu-ia!
Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth re-ply: Al-le-lu-ia!
2. Let the Vic-tor’s peo-ple sing, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
Dy-ing once, Christ lives to save, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where your vic-to-ry, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!
3. Love’s re-deem-ing work is done, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fought the fight, the bat-tle won, Al-le-lu-ia!
Death in vain for-bids Christ rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
God has o-pened par-a-dise, Al-le-lu-ia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fol-lowing our ex-alt-ed Head, Al-le-lu-ia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al-le-lu-ia!

Children's Message & Offering

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Epistle Lesson

Colossians 3:1-14

Carl Johnson

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly....Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.

In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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

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

Call to Prayer

Steven Burleson

Call to Confession

Breath of Life, Liberator of the imprisoned, Hope of the world, you call us together so that even in this day of victorious celebration we might confess all that yet imprisons us. God of new life, hear our prayers:

A Time of Silence

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Steven Burleson

All: Living God, we need your resurrection power to work in our lives. Open the tombs that have stifled our growth; tear off the shroud with which others have wrapped us; breathe into

Sermon "Easter and Earthquakes" Nancy Ellett Allison

* Resurrection Hymn "Death in His Grave" John Mark McMillan

Though the Earth cried out for blood, unquenchable its hunger was
Its billows calmed on raging seas when the souls of all it craved.
Sun and moon from balcony, turned their heads in disbelief
Their precious Love would taste the sting, disfigured and disdained.

Refrain:

On Friday a thief, on Sunday a King: laid down in grief
but awoke with keys of Hell on that day. The First Born of the Slain,
The Man Jesus Christ, laid death in His grave.

So three days in darkness slept, the Morning Sun of Righteousness;
But rose to shame the throes of death and over turn its rule.
Ne'er again can death defraud the daughters and the sons of God
Its power o'er all flesh was rent when the day rolled anew. *(Refrain)*

Christ has cheated hell and seated us above the fall
In Him prevails the triumph over death for One, for all. *(Refrain)*

Offertory Invitation Steven Burleson

*(Parents may go to Children's Church
and bring in their children for communion.)*

Offering Music "Coronation" Craig Courtney

Holy Covenant Women's Chorus

* Offering Response

ROCKINGHAM



Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an



off - ring far too sm - all. Love so a - maz - ing,



so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all!

* Offertory Dedication

Steven Burleson

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

* One: We invite all who celebrate Christ's life and love to join us at this table of fellowship. We who have been wandering find a place here. Here with bread and cup we are welcomed by our true host, the Living Christ. May those who are unsure find their place today. May those who have forgotten, rediscover joy in this sacramental welcome.

* Many: Like the women who stumbled toward the tomb, we know the experience of great obstacles blocking our entrance to hope; of wandering blinded by grief and self-absorption. On this wondrous morning we are reminded that no rock, no obstacle, no impossibility can match the capacity of God's astonishing love: "He's not here, he's risen." the angel said.

One: The Living One is here!

Many: God's Spirit is with us.

One: Lift up your hearts!

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Living One our Savior;

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer after Communion

Nancy Ellett Allison

All: May all we do be in response to new life. May the love of the cross, the power of the resurrection, and the presence of the Living God lead us forward. May the Spirit of God give new strength to all our living. Alleluia, amen.

* Hymn 253 “Yours is the Glory, Resurrected One!” JUDAS MACCABEUS
David A. Smith, trumpet; Bill Tyler, French horn

1. Yours is the glo-ry, Res-ur-rect-ed One!
 End-less is the vic-tory you o'er death have won.
 An-gels clothed in ra-diance rolled the stone a-way;
 con-quer-ed is the grave in which your bod-y lay.
 Yours is the glo-ry, Res-ur-rect-ed One!
 End-less is the vic-tory you o'er death have won.

2. See, it is Je-sus, Je-sus has ap-peared;
 do not doubt at all for noth-ing you will fear.
 Let the church with glad-ness hymns of tri-umph sing;
 tell it with-out ceas-ing: Death has lost its sting.
 Yours is the glo-ry, Res-ur-rect-ed One!

3. Am I still fright-ened? One whom I a-dore,
 Je-sus, lives a-gain, gives peace for-ev-er-more.
 Je-sus is my vic-tory, life and strength and Head;
 Je-sus is my glo-ry, noth-ing shall I dread.
 Yours is the glo-ry, Res-ur-rect-ed One!
 End-less is the vic-tory you o'er death have won.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

“Ain’t No Grave”
Holy Covenant Music Cooperative

David Crowder

EASTER EGG HUNT FOLLOWING SERVICE AT 12:15 PM



THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

PLEASE SIGN OUR FRIENDSHIP PAD

Welcome to all who worship today at Holy Covenant! Guests and members, please sign a friendship pad and then pass it back to its starting point, taking note of who is worshipping near you and greet them.

RECEIVING COMMUNION AT HOLY COVENANT

All are welcome to receive communion at the table of the Living Christ. We observe communion by intinction. Please take a piece of bread or a wafer and dip the bread into the cup to receive both elements at once.

STORIES OF NEW LIFE

What is bringing you joy, energy and new life in this year? During the Easter Season, we would like for members to briefly share their story of new life with the congregation. If you are willing to do this, please contact Susan Bennett Stiles at susanbennettstiles@gmail.com.

HOLY COVENANT INVITES PROPOSALS

It's the perfect Easter story – a new ministry will soon blossom from the legacy planted by the faithful women and men of Pilgrim Congregational UCC. On Easter Sunday, Holy Covenant officially launches its invitation for proposals to build a new ministry in South Charlotte. The first step in the process – an initial inquiry from people with ideas large and small – will remain open through mid-summer. Ideas with potential will be invited to a second round: a comprehensive, in-depth proposal – with a final interview weekend planned for the first weekend in November. Visit Holy Covenant's website for more details.

CHURCH PICNIC, APRIL 30 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

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

Elder for April: Faye Humphrey, fghumphrey@yahoo.com or 704-618-2750

Recyclers: Lynn Chavarria

Greeters: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Johnson

Ushers: Kim Cobb, Barry Holcomb, Sue Pascucci

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Olivia Carney

Tabulators: Lori Cipot, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Debbie Davis, Joy Decker

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Charlotte & Frank Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Jim Humphrey, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Alice Phelan, Yami Senturias, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Mary & Keith (Susan Bennett-Stiles), Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Bill Funderburk (Donna Collins), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Frances Helms (Lynn Helms), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), Carrie McLelland (Joe McLelland), Pat & JoAnn Murphey (Laura Murphey), Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), John Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Christina Mary Smith (Kathi Smith), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Cynthia Simpson, Tommy Simpson, Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), Clarence Walker (Gregg Walker)

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

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

Mr. Jared Fischer, Music Director

Mr. Steven Burlison, Youth & Young Adult Pastor

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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