



Silent Meditation

Jesus did not live and die that we might all bow down and worship him. He lived and died so that, by his example, we might learn to live and die for love. The story begins when God puts on flesh and comes to walk among us.

It begins again, when God's spirit is uncaged by death, when the one who walked among us dies an individual and is born again as a community....

Easter happens every day.

Easter happens each time those who mourn rise up again to honor those they've lost by loving life more dearly.

Easter happens every time we stand in solidarity with those who've lost all hope and say, "Hold on, we're at your side."

And Easter happens every time, in spite of woe and death, in spite of the multitude of ways we've turned away, in spite of our failures and denials, we say yes to life.

~ Rob Eller-Isaacs

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 8, 2018

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

One: May the peace of the Living Christ be with you.

Many: May the risen Christ be with your spirit.

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

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

One: Our gathering today is another wave of the one, mighty, resurrection event.

Many: **We are convened by the living Christ.**

One: Let us delight in this Presence, and reaffirm our love and commitment.

Many: **We love because Christ has first loved us.**

One: Let there be joy in our coming together this morning.

Many: **Let there be truth heard in the words we speak and the songs we sing.**

One: Let there be help and healing for our disharmony and despair.

Many: **Let there be silence for the voice within us and beyond us.**

All: **Let there be joy in our coming together!**

* Passing of the Peace

One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of God's peace, for the peace of God is here to stay.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

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

* Hymn 243

“Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

WEISSE FLAGGEN

1. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Hearts to heaven and voic-es raise;
Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
Je-sus on the cross as Sav-ior for the world's sal-va-tion bled;
But the cru-ci-fied Re-deem-er now is ris-en from the dead!

2. Now the i-ron bars are bro-ken, Christ from death to life is born;
Glo-rious life, and life im-mor-tal on this ho-ly Eas-ter morn;
Christ his tri-umphed, and we con-quer by God's lib-er-at-ing deed;
Now the Christ with us a-bid-ing to e-ter-nal life shall lead.

3. Christ is risen, we are ris-en; shed upon us heav-en-ly grace,
Rain and dew, and gleams of glo-ry from the bright-ness of your
face;
That we, with our hearts in heav-en, here on earth may fruit-ful be,
And by an-gel hands be gath-ered, and be yours e-ter-nal-ly.

4. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Glo-ry to the God of joy;
Al-le-lu-ia to the Sav-ior who came death's bonds to de-stroy;
Al-le-lu-ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti-ty,
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! To the Tri-une Majes-ty.

“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing”

**To you, O God, all creatures sing; Let all the vaults of heav'n now ring.
Sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**Thou burning sun with golden beam; Thou silver moon with softer
gleam. Sing your praises, sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong; Ye clouds that sail in heav'n
along. Sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**Thou rising morn in praise rejoice; Ye lights of evening find a voice.
Sing your praises, sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**O crystal waters flowing clear; Make music for thy Lord to hear.
Sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**Let all things their creator bless And worship God in humbleness.
Sing your praises, Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise Creator God and Son; And praise the Spirit three in one.
Sing your praises, sing your praises, Alleluia!**

Children's Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

New Life Story

Micki Spear

Pastoral Prayer

Barbara Thomas

**The Lord's Prayer (*feel free to use alternate* “Our Father which art...”)
Our God in whom is heaven, hallowed be your name.....**

* Hymn 241

“Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR



1 Joy dawned a - gain on Eas - ter Day, the sun shone
2 O Je - sus, Sav - ior, Gen - tle One, come take our
3 O Sov - ereign One, with us a - bide in this our

out with bright ar - ray; For when the A - pos - tles
hearts to be your own, That we may give you
joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; From ev - ery weap - on

hid in fear, the Ris - en Christ to them ap - peared.
all our days the will - ing trib - ute of our praise.
death can wield, your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield.

* Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

Many: **Alleluia! Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

Sermon

"Keeping Score"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Barbara Thomas

Offering Music

Jared Fischer

(Please fill in your worship feedback form & place in offering plate.)

* Response of Thanksgiving

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

φ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Offertory Dedication

Barbara Thomas

* UCC Statement of Faith 885 (in the form of a Doxology)

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and
risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

- One:** We come with joy, each a child of God, forgiven, loved and free.
Many: The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me.
One: We come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
Many: The new community of love in Christ's communion bread.
One: As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
Many: The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends
One: Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,
Many: And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray.
(from Brian Wren "I Come with Joy")
All: We celebrate this open table, where all are welcome. We share bread and wine with Christians around the world, celebrating that in Christ we are many who can be one, and praying for God's peace that makes us whole. As we drink the cup and eat the bread, may the Spirit be with us, enlivening us with courage and hope to join together in the sacred work of restoring our shared planet.

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We give thanks, Living God, for all the members of your universal church; may we be bound together by the spiritual ties of this celebration. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another until all of us come to the unity of faith through the Living Christ. Amen.

Refrain (before st. 1 and after st. 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es
 4 Christ, by your wounds on Cal - va - ry from death's dread

ry of life is won; The song of tri - umph
 le - gions has dis - persed: Let shouts of ho - ly
 glo - rious from the dead: All - glo - ry to our
 sting your ser - vants free, That we may live e -

has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! to Refrain

Postlude

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.

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. Gluten free wafers are available in small ramekin.

NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

If you would like to learn more about our congregation or become a member at Holy Covenant, join our Inquirer's Classes!

April 15, 9:30 am History of UCC & Holy Covenant

April 22 (time TBA) Organization & Opportunities for Involvement

We will welcome new members on April 29.

Please contact Debbie Davis at DebbieKDavisNC@gmail.com with questions or to let her know you plan to attend. Childcare is available if needed.

NEW LIFE STORIES

What is bringing you New Life in this Easter Season? We would love to hear your "New Life Story" about a spiritual practice, a new job, a change

of pace, whatever it is that is bringing you new life, new energy at this point in time. Speak to Nancy or Barbara about that and we will find a time for you to share that story with others.

THANK YOU, CHERI DENNIS!

We are grateful to Cheri Dennis for having served as a Ministry Intern for us at Holy Covenant for the last year. Cheri is currently in seminary training through Union Presbyterian Seminary and we are grateful for her worship leadership, teaching with our youth and adults and her visitation with many of our homebound members.

WORSHIP FEEDBACK

I appreciate having Communion on a weekly basis: (Please circle)

Highly Agree

Agree

Highly Disagree

For me, the right frequency is:

Once per quarter, Easter & Christmas Eve

First Sunday of each month, Easter & Christmas Eve

Weekly

Worship can extend to 12:10 or 12:15 to accommodate weekly communion: (Please circle)

Highly Agree

Agree

Highly Disagree

Because we have added weekly communion to our schedule, I would hate to lose:

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT BLOWING ROCK CONF. CENTER, JUNE 1-3

Participants fees due by May 6. The cost is \$170 per person, all inclusive. Please make your check payable to HCUCC; notate Women's Retreat in the memo. We look forward to having you there! For more information see **Suzanne Lamorey** or **Rev. Barbara**. Retreat leader is our own Anne Findlay-Chamberlain.

ALL CHURCH RAFTING RETREAT AT YMCA RETREAT CENTER, AUG 10-12

Everyone is welcome! We will have group sessions on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday morning. Folks can raft or tube. Cost is approximately \$130 per person not including the rafting/tubing fee. Contact **Barbara Schneller** or **Rev. Barbara Thomas** for additional information.

53RD ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE SOUTHERN CONF, JUNE 21- 23

This year's event will be held at the Canterbury School in NE Greensboro, NC, hosted by the WNCA. Our theme is "Renew, Restore, Refresh" (Psalm 51:10,12), a celebration of what God has done and is doing in the life of the Southern Conference. Holy Covenant UCC can send delegates to be our voting voice! Contact the **church office** if you are interested.

COVENANT GROUPS! GET CONNECTED

Covenant groups are our way of connecting to each other outside of Sunday morning. All are invited to connect to a group. If you are not connected to a group or would like to change groups please let us know by contacting the church office, Joy Decker or Rev. Barbara **Covenant group facilitators will meet after church on April 29th**. Please let Rev. Barbara know that you will be there if you are a group facilitator, BarbaraT@holycovenantucc.org.

GAME NIGHT, SATURDAY APRIL 14, 6 PM AT HCUCC!

Games for all ages are available, or bring your favorite game to share! Bring a light finger food to share. The Bold and Beautiful CG will provide beverages. Not a traditional 'gamer'? Come to socialize and learn a game!

FIRST QUARTER GIVING STATEMENTS

Your gifts are so important to our ministry and we appreciate each of you for your time, talents and treasures! Statements were sent via email this past Wednesday. If you would like to change your email address, or OPT OUT of receiving electronic giving statements, please contact Dawn in the office to let us know your preference.

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

Elder for April: Suzanne Lamorey, SuzLam@yahoo.com or 704-654-7267

Deacons for April: Martha Bomely, Lisa Sherman

Greeters: Laura Hankins, Marylou Iantosca

Ushers: Kevin Edwards, Joy or Kevin Decker, Susan Pascucci

Media: Brian Hankins, Suzanne Lamorey, Olivia Carney

Tabulators: Diane Rogers, Kathi Smith

Refreshments: Renee Brown, Heather Ward

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Meg Houlihan, Claire and Elena, & Tom Lannin in the death of Meg's father.

Susan Bennett Stiles, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Cindy Coble, Linn Finger, Laura Hankins, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed Sharp, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Bill Funderburk, Cindy Herman (Donna Collins), Kim Hobbs (Melissa Noll), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Judah Jones, George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren), Pauline McCowan (Martha Bomely), Beth Poyer Meyer, Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Becky Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Norma Thomas (Barbara Thomas), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp), Jason Wingard (Cynthia Simpson)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Rev. Barbara Thomas, Interim Minister for Church & Family Life

Mrs. Cheri Dennis, Ministry Intern

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510

www.holycovenantucc.org office@holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810