



## **First Reformed, 1916 ~ Holy Covenant, 2019**

### *A Future Not Our Own*

It helps now and then to step back and take a long view.  
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.  
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of  
saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession  
brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives include everything.

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This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing this. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

~Bishop Ken Untener  
in memory of Oscar Romero

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION**

January 13, 2019

10:55 AM

Prelude

Kathleen Smith

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of Christ 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

Kathleen Smith

\* Call to Worship

Adam Blaser

One: God of the Ages, inspire us with the lives of those before us:

Many: **those who have lived and served in faith, sharing your love  
with all.**

One: May you charge us with a vision to thrive and serve as an  
encouraging witness for all on the journey of life.

Many: **May we be a community of welcome, caring for all; living into  
what is yet to be.**

One: Call us from our past, through the voices of our ancestors, in the  
songs they have sung and the prayers they have spoken that  
have shaped justice and peace within this congregation.

Many: **Call us to a hope-filled future of faithful people bound in  
covenant across cultures, continents, and confessions.**

One: Grant us the courage to offer a transforming witness and  
extravagant welcome to all.

Many: **We give thanks, O Living God for a transforming church where  
all share the cost and joy of discipleship, where all receive the  
promise of courage in the struggle for justice and peace.**

ALL: In this singular moment we become ready, ready to take with  
us our stories from the past, and ready to look into the  
future, a future filled with promise for all.

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

1. God of the a-ges, who with sure com-mand  
brought forth in beau-ty all the star-ry band  
of shin-ing worlds in splen-dor through the skies,  
our grate-ful songs be-fore your throne a-rise.
2. Your pur-pose, just, en-vi-sions mor-tals free;  
God, set our path toward hu-man lib-er-ty.  
Still be our rul-er, guard-ian, guide, and stay—  
your Word our law, your paths our cho-sen way.
3. From war’s a-larms, from dead-ly pes-ti-lence,  
with stead-fast care be ev-er our de-fense;  
Your love and faith with-in our hearts in-crease;  
with boun-teous good-ness nour-ish us in peace.
4. Re-fresh your peo-ple on life’s toil-some way;  
lead us from night to nev-er-end-ing day;  
With truth and love guide us through er-ror’s maze,  
and we shall give you glo-ry, laud, and praise.

“A New Hallelujah”

by M. W. Smith

Can you hear, there's a new song  
Breaking out from the children of freedom  
Every race and every nation  
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

Let us sing love to the nations  
Bringing hope of the grace that has freed us  
Make it known and make it famous  
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

*Chorus:* Arise, let the church arise, Let Love reach to the other side  
Alive, come alive, Let the song arise.

Everyone sings a new song  
Reaching out with a new Hallelujah  
Every son and every daughter  
Everyone sing a new Hallelujah. (*Chorus*)

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.)*

\* Gospel Lesson John 21:15-17

Gregg Walker

When (Jesus and the disciples) had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time Jesus said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” Jesus said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And Peter said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

Response *from "I Am Willing"* *by Holly Near*

Chorus: I am open and I am willing  
To be hopeless would seem so strange  
It dishonors those who go before us  
So lift me up to the light of change

Future Story "Impact as the Metric" Gregg Walker

\* Hymn

"All Are Welcome"

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
And all can safely live, A place where  
saints and children tell/How hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions; (*refrain*)

*All are welcome, all are welcome, All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
And words are strong and true,  
Where all God's children dare to seek  
To dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
And a symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (*refrain*)

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen,  
serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (*refrain*)

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (*refrain*)

Lord's Prayer

Our God, in whom is heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory. Amen.

Future Story

“On Earth”

Cheri Dennis

Scripture Lesson

Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:17-18

Shea Watts

“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

Response

*from “I Am Willing”*

*by Holly Near*

**Chorus: I am open and I am willing  
To be hopeless would seem so strange  
It dishonors those who go before us  
So lift me up to the light of change**

Future Story

“Holy Covenant: A Multigenerational Church”

Shea Watts

Anthem

“We are Called”  
*Chancel Choir*

*by David Haas*

Contemporary Witness

*by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

If you would hit the mark, you must aim a little above it;  
every arrow that flies feels the attraction of earth.

Response

*from “I Am Willing”*

*by Holly Near*

**Chorus: I am open and I am willing  
To be hopeless would seem so strange  
It dishonors those who go before us  
So lift me up to the light of change**

Future Story	“The Voices of All”	Fred Robinson
Contemporary Witness	“A Future Not Our Own”	<i>by Ken Untener</i>
Response	<i>from “I Am Willing”</i>	<i>by Holly Near</i>
Chorus:	I am open and I am willing To be hopeless would seem so strange It dishonors those who go before us So lift me up to the light of change	
Sermon	“Ministers not Messiahs”	Nancy Ellett Allison
Offertory Invitation		Fred Robinson
Offertory Music		Kathleen Smith
* Doxology		OLD HUNDREDTH
φ	Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above all heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.	
Offertory Dedication		Fred Robinson

### The Installation and Ordination of Deacons and Elders

**Elders:** Jeff Edwards-Knight, Kathleen Smith, Suzanne Lamorey, Robert Shepherd, Joy Decker, Tom Magraw

**Deacons:** Martha Bomely, James Hong, Cheryl Milam, Lisa Sherman, Diane Rogers, Gregg Walker, JoAnn Jellison, Holly Middleton, Ed Vickery

**Officers:** President Cheryl Milam (D), Vice President Gregg Walker (E), Secretary Lisa Sherman, Treasurer Kathleen Smith (E)

*(Members of the Class of 2021 and Officers come forward.)*

**Pastor:** These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of the church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are here to witness to their willingness to serve.

**Cheryl Milam:** Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for service on the Consistory of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

**Members:** I am.

**Cheryl Milam:** Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

**Members:** I do, relying on God's grace.

**Pastor:** Are each of you who have committed to serve as officers of the congregation willing to accept the office to which you have been called and are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

**Officers:** I am.

**Pastor:** Members of this household of faith, you have heard our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

**People:** We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you, that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

*(Current Elders and Deacons and the outgoing class of 2018 are invited forward for the laying on of hands.)*

**LAYING ON OF HANDS**

**Pastor:** The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon you, Joy Decker, as an Elder, and JoAnn Jellison and Holly Middleton, as Deacons. Let us offer our prayers and blessing as a congregation:

**People:** **Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties, that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**Cheryl Milam:** In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, we rejoice to announce that you are each ordained as members of the Consistory. May your service be a blessing and cause you to grow in wisdom and in grace. Amen.

\* Hymn 495

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”  
(*stanzas 1,4*)

BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ’s service,  
Called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
Side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfill God’s chosen end.

So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person’s sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
Our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace.

\* 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

Kathleen Smith

## 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.

### SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners class, led by Suzanne Lamorey, is studying immigration using *The Beast* by Oscar Martinez. Join us at 9:45 in the Conference Room!

### HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN TODAY

HCUC will again host our yet to be housed neighbors, you are welcome to join us for dinner this evening at 6 pm.

### TIME OUT YOUTH, FAMILY STYLE DINNER, JANUARY 24

Please consider helping with this next meal planned for Thursday, January 24. All are welcomed! Contact Bob Saylor, [bchs3201@aol.com](mailto:bchs3201@aol.com) if you can participate.

### SAVORING LIFE: PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE, A GREENFAITH DAY APART

**Saturday, February 2, 2019, from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at Holy Covenant**  
Anne Findlay-Chamberlain will lead an interfaith day of retreat and reflection to identify and nurture your passion for the environment, identify specific actions that make a difference, and create communities of support.

### OUR VERY OWN AUTHOR EVENT WITH TOMMY TOMLINSON! FEBRUARY 3

What better way to talk about losing weight than at a church potluck!? Tommy's new book will be released January 15 and if you pre-order it, you should have it in time to have at least read a chapter or two by February 3! Bring a favorite dish and following worship, join us for a time of dialogue that has connections with all of us who have struggled with identity and issues of self-control.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**MEMBERS**

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Anita Taylor, Caroline Utz

**FRIENDS & FAMILY MEMBERS**

Jesiah, Devon & Parker (Marina Luckhoo), Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Bill Englebreth (Judah Jones), Barbara Hunt (Donna Collins), Fran Matkins (Robert Shepherd), David Owens (Donna Collins), Walter Raley (Jean Raley Dennis), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), John Teague (Donna Collins), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor**  
**Rev. Fredrick D. Robinson, Associate Pastor**  
**Mr. Shea Watts, Director of Music Ministries**  
**Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Admin. Asst.**

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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