



Selections from “Ain’t I a Woman?”

Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me!

And ain't I a woman?

I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well!

And ain't I a woman?

I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me!

And ain't I a woman?...

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman!

Man had nothing to do with Him.

If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again!

And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY ~ BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February 24, 2019

Gathering Music

David Gilliland

Welcome and Announcements

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: God is good?

Many: **All the time!**

One: All the time?

Many: **God is good!**

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

Expression of Faith “28 Influential Black Women”

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1VUPvNKwRE>

* Words of Preparation

Cheryl Milam

One: Come, let us sing for joy to the Living God; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before God with thanksgiving—with music and song!

Many: **It is good to sing praise to You, and make music to Your name, O Most High; to proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night. For You make us glad by Your deeds, O God; we sing for joy at the work of Your hands.**

One: Worship God with gladness; come into God’s presence with joyful songs— with thanksgiving and praise! For God has taken away our garments of sadness, and clothed us with joy, that we might sing praise, and not be silent!

Many: **We will sing of God’s love forever! Young and old will hear and rejoice. For Your unfailing love lasts forever; Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens above.**

One: May Your ways be known throughout the earth, O God; Your saving power among people everywhere.

Many: **May the nations praise You and sing for joy, for You govern them with justice, and guide the actions of the whole world.**

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

* Passing of the Peace

Cheryl Milam

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.

* Hymn 506

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

ERIE

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to our God in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to our God in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Burdened with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to our God in prayer;
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the God in prayer!
Jesus' arms will take and shield you;
You will find a solace there.

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.)

Black History Focus

Ain't I a Woman?

Selma Taylor

*Speech delivered by Sojourner Truth in 1851
at the Women's Convention, Akron, Ohio.*

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

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

* Spiritual

“We Shall Overcome”

(As we stand, please cross arms and connect across the aisles.)

We shall overcome, we shall overcome

We shall overcome some day

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe

We shall overcome some day

The Lord will see us through, the Lord will see us through...

We are not afraid, we are not afraid...

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand...

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

Gift in song

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

SPARROW

Felicia Robinson, vocals, David Gilliland, piano

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you." ' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you"'

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

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

Offertory Invitation

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Music

David Gilliland

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

☩ 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

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Hymn 473

“Blessed Assurance”

ASSURANCE

1. Bless-ed assurance, Je-sus is mine!
O what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
Born of the Spir-it, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain: This is my sto-ry, this is my song
Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long;
This is my sto-ry, this is my song,
Prais-ing my Sav-ior all ne day long.

2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, perfect de-light!
Vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
An-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove
Echoes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. (*Refrain*)

3. Perfect submis-sion, all is at rest,
I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blessed;
Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,
Filled with God's good-ness, lost in Christ's love. (*Refrain*)

* Benediction

Fred Robinson

* Hymn of Celebration

“Some Glad Morning”

I’LL FLY AWAY

Some glad morning, when this life is o’er - I’ll fly away
To that home on God’s celestial shore - I’ll fly away

*Chorus: I’ll fly away oh glory, I’ll fly away (in the morning)
When I die hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away*

When the shadows of this life have gone - I’ll fly away
Like a bird from its prison bars has flown - I’ll fly away (Chorus)

Oh how glad and happy when we meet - I’ll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on my feet - I’ll fly away (Chorus)

Just a few more weary days and then - I’ll fly away
To a land where joys will never end - I’ll fly away (Chorus)

Postlude

David Gilliland

No matter who you are
or where you are on your journey,
you are welcome here!

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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

pastor@holycovenantucc.org

Rev. Fred Robinson, Associate Pastor

fredrick@holycovenantucc.org

Mr. Shea Watts, Director of Music Ministries

music@holycovenantucc.org

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

office@holycovenantucc.org

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ
3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510
www.holycovenantucc.org ~ 704-599-9810

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.

WELCOME MECKMIN!

Today, we welcome a delegation from Mecklenburg Ministries in worship. Through their Faithful Journeys program members travel to a different House of Worship where members of the community can come together to learn about the congregation's norms and practices.

MISSIONS & JUSTICE TEAM MEETING TODAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

We will gather in the conference room following worship and have many ministries to discuss. All are welcomed to attend!

EARTH CARE MINISTRY TEAM MEETING TODAY IN THE SOJOURNER'S ROOM

This will be a follow-up to the Green Faith retreat and discuss how we want to proceed in 2019. All members are invited to attend.

PHOTO DIRECTORY LAST CHANCE FOR SIGN UP

Photo shoots are Thursday Feb 28th through Saturday March 2nd.

Holy Covenant is partnering with Lifetouch Family Photography to create a pictorial directory for the church. Look for Terry at a table in the gathering room to schedule your appointment and to confirm your contact information.

TIME OUT YOUTH, FAMILY STYLE DINNER, MARCH 8

Please consider helping with this next meal planned for Friday, March 8. All are welcomed! Contact Bob Saylor, bchs3201@aol.com if you can participate.

MIGRANT BUS MINISTRY- HCUCC HOSTS WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Warm clothes, snacks, toiletries and diapers are being collected to give to migrants as they pass through Charlotte on the Greyhound bus route on their journey to pursuit asylum. A collection box is available in the Conference Room. See Suzanne Lamorey with questions or to participate in this welcoming.

HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN, MARCH 10

HCUCC will host our yet to be housed neighbors to keep them warm, give them a place to shower, and feed them hot meals. Can you help with this ministry? Can you assist with Monday morning clean up? Perhaps you would simply like to join us for dinner and conversation? suzlam@yahoo.com

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

Elder for February: Tom Magraw, tmagraw@aol.com or 704-614-5405

Deacons for February: JoAnn Jellison, Lisa Sherman

Greeters: Anne Hayes, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, Michael Sladek, Eileen Howe

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Joy Decker, Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: South Charlotte Covenant Group

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Phyllis Johnson, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelsen, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), Kevin Kleka (Dawn Simmons), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), Becki Minich (Eileen Howe), Tony Morand (Lloyd & Gussie Spencer), David Owens (Donna Collins), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Latassha Roberts, Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), 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)

Season of Lent

ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 6, SUPPER, 6:00, WORSHIP, 7:00 PM

Supper: The Hospitality Committee will provide several kinds of soup, salad, bread and beverages. We need YOU to provide dessert - cookies or bars. Come straight from work, enjoy the food, then attend the service. Families and children are welcome. Child care can be provided with an advance request.

Worship: Through music, readings and prayers, Ash Wednesday provides an opportunity for reflection and commitment in shaping your Lenten disciplines. Join us for this meaningful and moving experience.

2019 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL - REMINDER MEDITATION WRITERS

Your submission is due on or before Thursday, February 28 to kathleenie53@msn.com. Thank you.

PRACTICING MIDRASH, WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 13 - APRIL 17

Nancy Allison will lead this midweek focus on ways to engage and study the Bible using Tim Moore's book, "Practicing Midrash." From noon to 1PM at Holy Covenant, we will join together for reflection, discussion and contemplation.

THE WAY OF GRACE, SUNDAYS, MARCH 10 - APRIL 14

Sally Duffy and Micki Spear will lead a Lenten Devotion Group "Companions in Christ: The Way of Grace." "Grace" reflects the love and mercy given to us by God because God desires us to have it, not because of anything we have done to earn it." Join is for reflections on Grace, Lent and the Resurrection each week. Sundays, 4 PM - 5:30 PM at Micki's home throughout Lent. Contact Micki at 704-728-7622 or Sally at 704-650-7385 to RSVP. Participation is limited to 8.

TROUBLE I'VE SEEN BOOK STUDY, SUNDAYS, MARCH 17 - APRIL 14

Fred Robinson will lead our Adult discussion class on Sunday mornings at 9:45AM. This book is subtitled "Changing the way the Church Views Racism" and will be a valuable discussion in leading us forward.