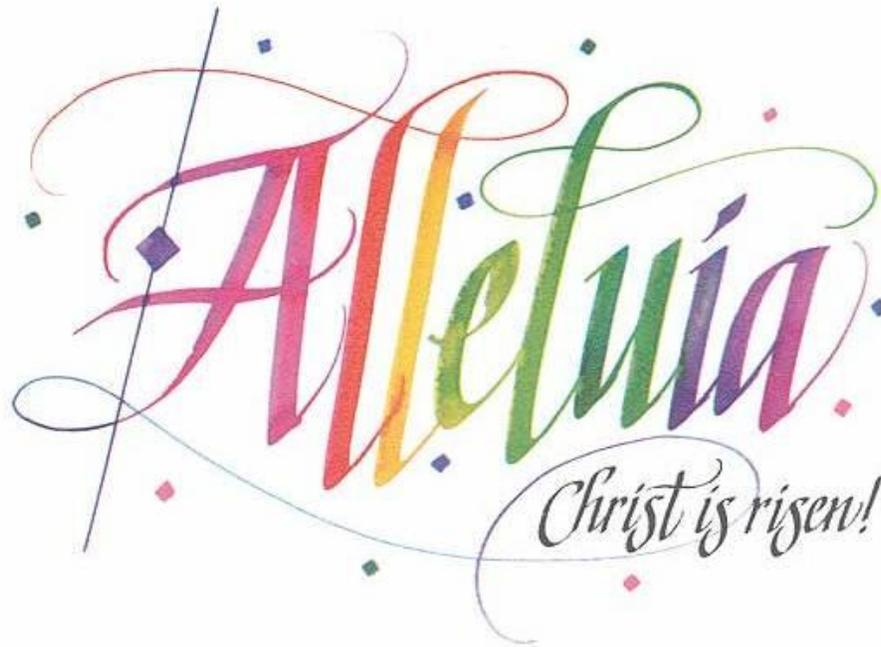




transforming faith
HOLY COVENANT UCC



Alleluia.
Christ is risen!

*I deny the resurrection of Christ every time
I do not serve at the feet of the oppressed,
each day that I turn my back on the poor;
I deny the resurrection of Christ when I close my ears to the cries of the
downtrodden and lend my support to an unjust and corrupt system....
I affirm (the resurrection of Christ)
when I stand up for those who are forced to live on their knees,
when I speak for those who have had their tongues torn out,
when I cry for those who have no more tears left to shed.*

~ Peter Rollins

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RESURRECTION SUNDAY

April 21, 2019

Prelude and Chiming of the Bells

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

Opening Voluntary “Easter Introit” arr. Judah L. Jones
Handbell Choir

Children’s Message “Alleluia Bells” Nancy Ellett Allison
*(Children may remain to join the singing
and depart following the congregational music.)*

* Call to Worship Jeff Edwards-Knight

One: We gather because the astonished Mary Magdalene proclaimed:

Many: “I have seen the Lord!”

One: We gather because Jesus still comes into our locked spaces,
breathing upon us:

Many: “Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit.”

One: We gather like doubting Thomas who cried:

Many: “My Lord and my God.”

One: We gather because Jesus, still asks: “Do you love me?”

Many: “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

One: We gather as a congregation to join with all disciples in
proclaiming:

Many: “Do not be afraid. Go and tell, ‘Jesus has been raised!’”

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

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

* Hymn 233

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”
David Smith, Trumpet

EASTER HYMN

- 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 sign, 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 lead, 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!**

“Ain’t No Grave”

David Crowder

O, my Lord, it's a winding road/ And my heart aches from a heavy load.
I feel the weight beneath the ground /
But ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

O, my Lord, I can barely sing /Waiting on You and Your reckoning.
I feel the weight beneath the ground./
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

Chorus: I will rise! I will rise! (2x)
Trouble comes for everyone;
Death has no respect for love.
Roll that stone I won't be found;
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

O, my Lord, I can barely sing /Waiting on You and Your reckoning.
I feel the weight beneath the ground./
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down. (*Chorus*)

Oh my Lord, I can barely see/ Through the fog pressing in on me.
Angels humming, can you hear the sound?
Ain't no grave gonna HOLD ME DOWN.

(Pre-schoolers may go to extended care and those in kindergarten through fifth grade to Children's Church.)

Epistle Lesson

Acts 10:34-43

Cheryl Milam

Then Peter began to speak to the people: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. Jesus commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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 Confession

Fred Robinson

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:

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

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 us your resurrection breath. Hope of the world free us from despair, liberate us from our fears with the courage of Christ. Lead us into new life centered in you.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Friends of the Living God, Easter is about new life bursting free from the most deadly restrictions. Receive the remarkable gift of new beginnings, which the forgiveness of the Living Christ makes freely available. Let nothing detain you in guilt, nothing restrain you from accepting this bonus of new life. It is here in abundance!

Many: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Anthems

“I Will Rise”

Chris Tomlin

The Chancel Choir & Music Cooperative

“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)*

* Gospel Lesson

John 20:1-18

Felicia & Fred Robinson

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” ’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

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

Sermon

“As Easter Unfolds”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Anthem "Christ Is Arisen, Indeed" Natalie Sleeth
The Chancel Choir

Offertory Invitation Fred Robinson

Offering Music

* Doxology 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 Fred Robinson

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 wine 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! Wine bursts the wineskins, God bursts the tomb, Stones roll away, Bread breaks into song:

Many: ☩ **Come we to this meal today,
Not because we must, but because we may.
As our voices sing with praise,
To the gracious Lord our hearts we raise!
May we offer praises true.
It is good and pleasing so to do;
Sisters, brothers, come to be well fed,
And so we may see Christ as we break the bread.**

One: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "Take, eat: This is my body, broken for you." In like manner, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for all for the forgiveness of sins." We remember Christ's promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, as we gladly proclaim what we believe:

Many: ☩ **Boldly now our voices swell,
As the mystery of faith we tell:
Christ has died in sorrow true,
Christ is risen up to life anew!
Christ is Lord and gracious friend,
Alleluia! Christ will come again!
Holy Spirit, come - create, renew,
Bind us all together as one in you.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

Many: **Amen.**

One: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

*(Please come forward as directed by the ushers.
Communion is received by intinction. Take a wafer or bread and dip it
into the cup to receive both elements.)*

Music during Communion

Prayer of Response

φ God of victory, we give
Thanks and praise as long as we shall live!
For your peace our souls embrace,
For this holy meal of abundant grace.
Send us forth with joyful hearts,
With the strength your grace and love imparts.
Guide our minds, our hearts, our feet, our eyes,
To the cross, the grave, the earth, the skies!
David Smith, trumpet

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

Kathleen Smith

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

PLEASE SIGN OUR ATTENDANCE REGISTER

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

EASTER EGG HUNT

Join the fun with our Preschool and Children's Egg Hunt following worship!

JAZZ WORSHIP SUNDAY APRIL 28

As part of the Blumenthal Charlotte Shout Jazz Festival, the Dawn Anthony Jazz Quartet will lead us in worship for this creative service. Join us as Rev. Fred Robinson preaches in the Second Sunday of Easter.

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, Cheryl Milam

Greeters: Suzanne Lamorey, Debbie Winston

Ushers: Tom Magraw, Suzanne Lamorey, Shakti Subramanian

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Alice Phelan, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Donna Collins

Recyclers: Suzanne Lamorey

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Eileen Howe in the death of her sister, Becki Minich; Steven, Brittany and Owen Burleson, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Mamie Stokes, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Anton Clark and family in the death of his wife, Regina
Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), Amy Ciccone (Dawn Simmons), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Amy Madden (Robert Shepherd), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), Tony Morand (Lloyd & Gussie Spencer), David Owens (Donna Collins), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Chris Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), 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 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

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