



When we find ourselves loved, we begin to lose our sense of alienation. God's love, and the self-love that it breeds within us, restores to us a sense of real belonging in the world. We stop seeing the world as a place of strangers. We begin to find community--one of the most joyous ways of experiencing God. By community I mean a coming together that puts us in touch with ourselves, with others and with God's presence.

~Sue Monk Kidd

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN EASTER**

June 2, 2019

Prelude & Chiming of the Bells

David Gilliland

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Many: **And also with you.**

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

Opening Voluntary

* Call to Worship

Melissa McQueen-Simmons

One: Come! Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life in the fullness of God's world!

Many: **We come to center ourselves once more. We come to re-weave the unraveling fabric of community.**

One: We come to re-connect with the larger human family;

Many: **We come to remind ourselves that we belong; And to remember what it is we belong to.**

One: We come to celebrate the life we share together.

Many: **We come to be opened by visions that can enlist us in larger causes and more caring actions.**

One: We come to hear stories that can move us toward integrity and reconnect us with our better selves.

Many: **Come! Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life in the fullness of God's world!**

* Passing of the Peace

Melissa McQueen-Simmons

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.**

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

1. The church’s one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ our Lord;
We are Christ’s new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
With pre-cious blood Christ bought us for all e-ter-ni-ty.

2. E-lect from ev-ery na-tion, yet one o’er all the earth,
One char-ter of sal-va-tion, on God, one faith, one birth,
One name to-ge-ther bless-ing, one ho-ly food we share,
To one hop we are press-ing, at one in work and prayer.

3. ’Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion, and tu-mult of our war,
we wait the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more;
Till with the vi-sion glo-rious, our long-ing eyes are blessed,
and the great church vic-to-rious shall be the church at rest.

4. Yet we on earth have un-ion with God, the Three-in-One,
and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won.
O hap-py ones and ho-ly! God gives us grace that we,
like them, the meek and low-ly, may live e-ter-nal-ly.

* Hymn

“Wonder”
Music Cooperative

by Houston & Crocker

Have you ever seen the wonder/In the glimmer of first sight
As the eyes begin to open/And the blindness meets the light
If you have so say

Chorus 1: I see the world in light/I see the world in wonder
I see the world in life/Bursting in living color
I see the world Your way/And I’m walking in the light

Have you ever seen the wonder/In the air of second life
Having come out of the waters/With the old one left behind
If you have so say (to Chorus 1)

Chorus 2: I see the world in grace/I see the world in gospel
I see the world Your way/And I’m walking in the light

Refrain: I’m walking in the wonder/ You’re the wonder in the wild
Turning wilderness to wonder/If You have so say

Chorus 3: I see the world in love/I see the world in freedom
I see the Jesus way/You’re the wonder in the wild

Chorus 1, Chorus 2, Refrain, Chorus 3

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.)

Special Music

“Give Us This Day”
Felicia Robinson, David Gilliland

by Lyndon Carriger

* Gospel Lessons

John 13:31-35

Jim Hong

When (Judas) had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

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

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

John 17:20-26

Fred Robinson

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

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

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

Sermon

“Not for Us Alone”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Fred Robinson

Offering Music

David Gilliland

* 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!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

* One: We invite all who celebrate Christ's life and love to join us at this table of fellowship.

Many: We who have been wandering find a place here. Here with bread and wine we are welcomed by our true host, the Living Christ.

One: May those who are unsure find their place today. May those who have forgotten, rediscover joy in this sacramental welcome.

Many: We gather in the memory that we are called to be the people of God; to participate expectantly in God's mission in the world.

One: We gather to affirm what we believe

Many: that we might be the persons God intends.

* UCC Statement of Faith

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.

Words of Institution

Nancy Ellett Allison

Prayer of Consecration

*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

David Gilliland

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We give thanks, Living God, that You have refreshed us at Your table by shining the Light of Christ into our lives. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace. Amen.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response 581

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

φ **Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.**

Postlude

David Gilliland

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.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC AT LAKE NORMAN TODAY

Please join us at 21425 Norman Shores Drive, Cornelius, NC 28031. If you live north of town a convenient place to park for carpooling is the parking lot at Shoppes at Fresh Market when you turn right on Torrence Chapel Road.

*Join us for a Festive Pentecost Sunday
Wear red, orange or yellow in Celebration
June 9, 2019 10:55 am*

STRENGTHEN CHURCH OFFERING PENTECOST SUNDAY

We will receive the *Strengthen the Church* special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. This offering builds the UCC's future. It funds new congregations and renews existing ones. Please join us in supporting this important offering.

RACIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY TEAM, JUNE 9, 12:30 GATHERING

The Racial Justice and Equity Team will hold its first meeting on June 9 at 12:30 after worship service. The team is working on exploring ways that we--as a church--can address issues of racial equity, justice and inclusion per the passage of this resolution from the Consistory. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Rev. Fred Robinson, 770-344-8002 or fredrick@holycovenantucc.org.

LET'S GET W.I.S.E. TOGETHER! JUNE 23, 12:30 CONFERENCE ROOM

Join us for an exploratory meeting to consider ways to better support those with mental health issues in our congregation and our community. The UCC has developed a program called **WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged)** that helps congregations identify and take practical steps to address these concerns. We hope to have a diversity of voices as we consider this important ministry need. Contact Meg Houlihan, 704-957-8738 or megmhoulihan@gmail.com for more information.

MIGRANT BUS MINISTRY

The Charlotte Greyhound Migrant Assistance Project has coordinated greeters for the buses in order to provide much needed travel essentials for the Central American Migrants. Smaller adult size and all children's sizes of socks and underwear, juice boxes and water, toiletries and diapers. A collection box is available in the Gathering Room. Contact Suzanne Lamorey, suzlam@yahoo.com, with questions or to participate in this welcoming.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome to those who are new to our adult Sunday School class, called The Sojourners! Our current book study is *This Is How It Always Is*, by Laurie Frankel. It's a fictional account of a transgender child, his/her family, and their struggles. All are welcome!

BOOK CLUB

Join us June 12th, the selected reading is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, discussion leader is Barbara Schneller. We gather at SouthPark Christian Church at 10:30 AM, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte.

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP - KEEP IT SIMPLE!

To help keep us organized, we use an electronic signup for volunteers called SignUpGenius. You can use the link below to sign up, and you can still sign up on paper if you prefer.

<https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks2019>

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

Elder for June: Joy Decker, 704-579-1694 or joy@joydecker.com

Deacons for June: Ed Vickery, Holly Middleton

Greeters: Laura Hankins, Shirley Moder

Ushers: JP Griffin, Jill Gregg, Larry Winston

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley-Dennis, Kelly Gimlin

Refreshments: Retirees Covenant Group

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Please remember Karen Courts and Mary Misciagna in the death of Karen's father. Cards can be sent to 321 Cove Creek Loop, Mooresville NC 28117
Gail & Danny Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Mamie Stokes

Friends & Family Members

Ernistine "Tinnie" Chrismon in the death of her husband, Donnie Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Marilyn Lafferty (Kim Tyler), Bob Lyons (Melissa Noll), Amy Madden (Robert Shepherd), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), 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
Ms. Kathleen Smith, Accompanist kathleenie53@msn.com

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