



*“Can These Bones”
by Rev. Helms Jarrell*

Silent Meditation

"Forgiveness and healing are important narratives, but they cannot dominate our imaginary until the seas troubled by racist hatred have been calmed by truth, until the fear that underwrites the violence is replaced by faith in the oneness of all humanity with the divine in all of its manifestations."

~William H. Lamar IV,
"Let us go to the other side" sermon

“The only trust required is to know that when there is one ending there will be another beginning.”

~Clarissa Pinkola Estés,
Women Who Run With the Wolves:
Myths and Stories of the Wild Woman Archetype

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 22, 2019

Prelude

Kathleen Smith

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Fred Robinson

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

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

Opening Voluntary

Kathleen Smith

*** Call to Worship**

Kathy Habel

One: Creator God, you loved the world into life.

**Many: Forgive us when our dreams of the future are shaped by
anything other than glimpses of a reign of justice, peace and
an end to poverty.**

One: Incarnate God, you taught us to speak out for what is right.

**Many: Make us content with nothing less than a world that is
transformed into the shape of love, where poverty shall be no
more.**

One: Breath of God, let there be abundant life.

**Many: Inspire us with the vision of equity for all and give us the
faith, courage and will to make it happen.**

*** Passing of the Peace**

Kathy Habel

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

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

1. Re-joyce, you pure in heart; lift prais-es to the sky;
Your fes-tal ban-nér wave with joy,
the cross of Christ raise high!
Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce, give thanks and sing.

2. Bright youth and sea-soned age, strong souls and spir-its meek,
Raise high your free, ex-ult-ing song,
God's won-drous prais-es speak.
Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce, give thanks and sing.

3. With voice as full and strong as o-cean's surg-ing praise,
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved,
the psalms of an-cient days.
Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce, give thanks and sing.

4. Yes, on through life's long path, still chant-ing as you go,
From youth to age, by night and day,
in glad-ness and in woe:
Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce, give thanks and sing.

5. Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris-en Christ a-dore,
Praise God the Spir-it, Ho-ly Fire,
one God for ev-er-more!
Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce, give thanks and sing.

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

RESTORATION

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and power.**

Refrain: **I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.**

**Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God’s free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh. *(Refrain)***

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you’re better,
You will never come at all. *(Refrain)***

**Let not conscience make you linger,
Not of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him. *(Refrain)***

Children’s Message

Fred Robinson

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

Wisdom Lesson

Psalm 61

Nancy Ellett Allison

Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.

From the end of the earth I call to you,
when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I;
for you are my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.

Let me abide in your tent forever,
find refuge under the shelter of your wings.

For you, O God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

Prolong the life of the king;
may his years endure to all generations!

May he be enthroned for ever before God;
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!

So I will always sing praises to your name,
as I pay my vows day after day.

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

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

Pastoral Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

Special Music

“If God”
by Robert Lowry

Felicia Robinson

Hebrew Scripture lesson Ezekiel 37:1-14

Fred Robinson

The hand of the Living God came upon me, and brought me out by the spirit of God and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. God led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. God said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Holy God, you know.' Then God said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Living God. Thus says the Holy One to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Living God.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then God said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Living God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as God commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then God said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Living God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Living God, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Living God, have spoken and will act, says the Holy One.'

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

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

Sermon

"Can These Bones Live?"

Helms Jarrell

Offertory Invitation

Fred Robinson

Offering Music

Kathleen Smith

* 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

Fred Robinson

* Hymn 585 "O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face"

ROSEBERRY

O God, we bear the imprint of your face:
The colors of our skin are your design,
And what we have of beauty in our race
As man or woman, you alone define,
Who stretched a living fabric on our frame
And gave to each a language and a name.

Where we are torn and pulled apart by hate
Because our race, our skin is not the same,
While we are judged unequal by the state
And victims made because we own our name,
Humanity reduced to little worth,
Dishonored is your living face on earth.

O God, we share the image of the One
Whose flesh and blood and ours, whatever skin;
In Christ's humanity we find our own,
And in your family our proper kin:
Jesus our brother we still crucify;
Love is the language we must learn, or die.

* Benediction

Helms Jarrell

* Benediction Response

NEW DIMENSIONS

☩ God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
Leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey,
Now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

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.

THE IMPACT OF RACE AND POVERTY IN CHARLOTTE, TODAY! CHURCH POTLUCK IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Join us for lunch as we explore poverty and race in the Queen City.

Rev. Helms Jarrell, co-founder of QC Family Tree, will lead us in worship. **Panelists Include Don Thomas** (from Leading on Opportunity), **Janeen Bryant** (from CREED-NC) and **Kass Ottley** (Community Activist) Moderator is **Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler**, Professor, Union Presbyterian Seminary.

WE WELCOME HELMS JARRELL

Reverend Helms Jarrell is a member of the QC Family Tree community in Charlotte, NC. QC Family Tree is a community of hospitality and solidarity in a neighborhood that bears the wounds of economic injustice and racial oppression. Helms sees her role in the community as learner, momma, creator, gardener, yogi, preacher, pastor, and welcomer. Helms graduated from Appalachian State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia and was ordained to ministry by First Baptist Church; Raleigh, NC in August Of 2003.

SACRED CONVERSATIONS TO END RACISM, OCTOBER 18, 19 & 20

Join us for a two-day anti-racism workshop with Dr. Velda Love, on the historical and present-day impacts of white supremacy. Learn ways to positively impact racial equity in our community and in your everyday life. Velda currently serves as Minister for Racial Justice in The Justice and and Local Church Ministries of The United Church of Christ National Office in Cleveland, OH.

Friday, Oct 18 - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Saturday, Oct 19 - 8:30 am - 2:00 pm, including breakfast and lunch

Sunday, Oct 20 - 10:55 am Dr. Velda Love preaches

DON'T LET THE FLU BUG YOU! OCTOBER 6 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Aline Sullivan, R.Ph. Pharm D, is making vaccines available for Flu, Shingles, Tetanus boosters, and Pneumonia. Most are covered by insurance for free or little to no co-payments. Bring your insurance cards. Wear "shot friendly" clothing. **Sign up by Sept 29 in the gathering room.**

Questions? Contact Martha Bomely, martha.bomely@gmail.com or Aline Sullivan, 803-237-8571.

CROP HUNGER WALK, OCTOBER 20

All walkers are welcome to join the USA's largest walk in the country on October 20 at 1:30 as part of the hunger-fighting team. We walk 4 miles, rain or shine. 25% of all donations stay in Mecklenburg County and are divided between Loaves & Fishes, Second Harvest Food Bank and Crisis Assistance Ministries. If you are interested in walking, contact Tina Dickens at 704-965-7708 or taichitina@gmail.com. If you can't do the walking, we would appreciate your financial support.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners continue to discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. Stevenson was a gifted young attorney when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending the poor, the wrongly condemned, and those trapped in the furthest reaches of our criminal justice system. All are welcome to join us at 9:45 in the Conference Room and no preparation is necessary.

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP - KEEP IT SIMPLE!

You can use the link below to sign up, and you can still sign up on paper if you prefer. <https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks2019>

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

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

Elder for September:

Suzanne Lamorey, suzlam@yahoo.com or 704-654-7267
Deacons for September: Martha Bomely, Holly Middleton

Greeters: Kathy Habel, Shirley Moder

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, Eileen Howe,
Mike Sladek, Mike Taylor, Selma Taylor

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Eileen Howe, Joy Decker

Refreshments: South Charlotte Covenant Group

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

The family and friends of Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis)

The family of Wade Hampton "Hamp" Shuford, Jr. (Robert Shepherd)

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Mary Ruth Edenfield Beatty (Donna Collins), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Scott Gleditsch (Barb Schneller), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Faye Grumbles (Linda Clark), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Marilyn Lafferty (Kim Tyler), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Amy Madden (Robert Shepherd), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), Carolyn Marshall (Linda Clark), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jack Ross (Anne Findlay-Chamberlain), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Irene Sharpe (Robert Shepherd), Barbara Shook (Dawn Simmons), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), John Teague (Donna Collins), Dorothy Underwood (Keith & Cheri Dennis), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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