



**“MAKING ROOM FOR CHRIST” COLLABORATIVE PAINTING  
DECEMBER 2014**

**“God is the one who satisfies the passion for justice, the longing for spirituality, the hunger for relationship, the yearning for beauty. And God, the true God, is the God we see in Jesus of Nazareth, Israel’s Messiah, the world’s true Lord.”  
-N. T. Wright**

**"The heartbeat of God burns with longing for the redemption of every individual."  
-Sunday Adelaja**

**“The soul must long for God in order to be set aflame by God’s love; but if the soul cannot yet feel the longing, then it must long for the longing. To long for the longing is also from God.”  
-Meister Eckhart**

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ PEACE**

December 4, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "Let All Mortal Flesh" J. Purifoy

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: May the peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Introit "Jesus Is Coming" FREEDOM IS COMING

Jesus is coming. (3x) Oh yes, I know.

\* Call to Worship Kristin Andes

One: A shoot soon comes from Jesse's stump, and a branch shall spring from roots.

All: **Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.**

One: A leader soon comes who will lift the poor with righteousness around his waist.

All: **Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.**

One: A child soon comes from an innocent place with wisdom and might. He will lead the way.

All: **Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.**

Invocation (*unison*) Kristin Andes

God of the waiting wanderers in the wilderness, we enter this moment of worship expecting that when we leave this hour of prayer, we will be full of the courage needed to stand as a signal. We come to the mountain to feel closer to your presence, O God. May the mountains yield prosperity for your people. May righteousness flourish and peace abound. You, alone, are the God who does wondrous things. May your glory fill this place as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

*\* Please take a comfortable posture that supports your  
worshiping, reading, and singing.*

\* Hymn 117

“Lift Up Your Heads”

TRURO

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!  
The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here, Christ, abide!  
Let me your inner presence feel; Your grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;  
Your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Cheri Dennis

One: We gather together in this season of Advent living in hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love.

All: God, we admit that we do not always stand as a signal for your righteousness. In the hustle and bustle of our lives, we have left little room to witness—to be your hands and feet in a world that needs us now more than ever. In the warm belly of comfort, many of us have relaxed in the layers of our privilege, not attending to the needs of the least of these.

Forgive us, O God. Give us the courage to stand tall, to follow in the footsteps of the one who came to secure justice for the poor, bring equity to the meek, and condemn the wicked with his lips. And on that day, we shall stand as a signal to the people. Amen.

Song

“You Came Down”

CAMEROON

You came down that we may have peace (3x)  
Hallelujah forevermore.

Words of Assurance

Cheri Dennis

Beloved, know that God’s grace and mercy abound, and in God and Christ, we are forgiven. Let us live into this gift. Amen.

Candle Lighting

“Candle of Peace”

Melissa, Von, & Camdyn McQueen-Simmons

Voice 1: “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.” (*Isaiah 11:6*)

Voice 2: What does peace look like in the new world?

Voice 1: Peace looks like a flowing river where every living thing has what they need to flourish.

Voice 2: Peace looks like a place where those who are weak are not afraid of those who are strong. Peace looks like good conversations around big tables.

(*Light 2<sup>nd</sup> candle*)

Voice 1: Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world, where we can boldly build a good life together, a good life of hope and peace.

Voice 2: May it be so. Amen.

Song

TRENTHAM

**Kindle this flame of peace. May it burn bright and true.  
Lighting the way that is of God, the journey we pursue.**

**God’s realm is our desire, where peace and justice reign.  
Heaven and earth combined as one, when Christ shall come again.**

Stories for All People

Laura Hankins

Song

“Peace Waits for Us at Advent”  
*Meg Houlihan, vocalist*

A. Udis-Kessler

*Peace waits for us at Advent. Peace waits for us to rest.  
Peace waits for our acceptance of the truth that we are blessed.  
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,  
For the birthing of a world of gentleness and play,  
Peace is born in us each day.*

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

The Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

**Loving God, in whom is heaven, may Your name be honored everywhere.  
May Your kin-dom come. May the desire of Your heart for the world be done,  
in us, by us and through us. Give us the bread we need for each day. Forgive  
us. Enable us to forgive others. Keep us from all anxiety and fear. For You  
reign in the power that comes from love which is Your glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

EMMANUEL

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, your name is called Emmanuel.**

**God with us, revealed in us, your name is called Emmanuel.**

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10

Kristin Andes

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations  
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." '

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

**One:** For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us.

**Many:** **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication Kristin Andes

**One:** We believe in the God of justice and righteousness. God believes in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for community by working for justice. Let us now dedicate the gifts received to the work of this mission.

**All:** **We dedicate the gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts work for justice in the world. May they be a signal to the people that there is a God who saves, heals, and sets free. Amen.**

\* Doxology

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, you heavenly host.  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Preparation

Anthem

“Christmas Communion Song”

S. N. Callaway

\* Invitation

Cheri Dennis

One: May you know that the God of comfort is with you.  
Many: **And may you see the God of hope with you.**  
One: Open wide our anxious hearts!  
Many: **We open them to God’s peace.**  
One: Let us give thanks and share our joy.  
Many: **In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.**

\* Words of Institution

Distribution of Elements

Music during Communion

“At This Table”

I. Menzel/J. Myrin

*Kathi Smith, Lisa Cloninger, vocalists*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body, for hope that we begin to see, and for comfort from the Prince of Peace, we share our gratitude, Gracious God. Encourage us in these shortened days. May your hope carry us through the long nights of this season until dawn arrives again. Amen.





ADVENT 2022

Nov 27 \* Hope

Dec 04 \* Peace

Dec 11 \* Joy

Dec 18 \* Love

Celebrate the Music of the Season

Dec 24 \* Christ

7pm candlelight service

Dec 25 \* Christmas Morning

We will not worship in-person Christmas morning



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

### IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Holy Covenant UCC has returned to hosting all in-person activities with face masks being optional, including Sunday worship services which will also be live-streamed.

### USHERS, GREETERS, LITURGIST AND COMMUNION SERVERS

**AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS!** Please sign up on SignUpGenius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ACAD23A2FE3-ushers>



### FROM THE RACIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY TEAM: IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT GIVING!

Holy Covenant has a [DonorsChoose giving page](#), a way for members to directly donate to classroom projects at historically underserved local elementary schools, that gives us all a place to choose a classroom project, make a donation of any amount, and track our giving as a congregation. Last year we gave \$998 to the students and teachers in our neighborhood! While we like to focus on David Cox elementary school, any school on the giving page is in our zip code and historically underfunded due to racial and economic inequity. The Holy Covenant [DonorsChoose giving page](#) will be available for donations year-round and you can even set up a monthly donation. Consider buying your books from Shelves, Charlotte's only Black-owned bookstore: [shelvesbookstore.com](https://shelvesbookstore.com).

### ANGEL TREE GIVING

Thank you to all who helped make our Angel Tree giving a big success! Our Angel Tree this year includes gifts for children whose parents are seeking asylum here in Charlotte, gifts from the family's wish list. Many thanks to Suzanne Lamorey for orchestrating this ministry and for delivering the packages. **Please return your unwrapped gifts to HCUCC by December 18.**

### UPDATES FROM YOUR PASTORAL SEARCH TEAM

We're busy at work and want to share what we are up to!

See our weekly electronic newsletter for a chronological document of our weekly accomplishments. Keep us in prayer as we continue this most important work!

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENT

The Christian Education Team will be filling in while we look for a new Children's Church Teacher. Would any of you like to go on the list to teach or be a

helper? Call or email or speak to Jo Ann Jellison, if you would like to talk about it. [joannjellison@yahoo.com](mailto:joannjellison@yahoo.com); (804)937-1180 Thank you!

## **SANDWICHES & BAGGED LUNCHES, DECEMBER 11**

Join us Sunday, December 11th after worship. We'll assemble sandwiches and bagged lunches to be delivered to Roof Above early December 12th. Please let Suzanne Lamorey know if you are willing to assist, 704-654-7267 or [SLamorey@uncc.edu](mailto:SLamorey@uncc.edu).

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

#### **Members**

Jean & Terry Raley-Dennis and family in the death of Jean's father, Jerry Raley Sr. Andrew & Britany Bomely, Martha Bomely, Gary & Linda Clark, Cindy Coble, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Helen Lambert, Sharon Landis, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Anita Taylor

#### **Friends & Family Members**

The family of Arthur Sizemore (Tina Ettesen)

The family of Bill Dodson (Joy Decker)

The family of Richard Pearce (Ed Vickery)

Nikki Arrigo (Kathleen Wagner), Tom Chevrier & Rob Lux (Kathleen Wagner), Laura Christian (Beth Sharp), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Ann Johnson (Joy Johnson), Geraldine Mobley (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Joe Parks (Beth Christian Sharp), Marie Raley (Jean Raley-Dennis), Barbara Rutelonis (Eric Miner), Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), Christopher Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Joyce Tyler (Bill & Kim Tyler), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Joyce Ward (Ed Vickery), Tamber Watson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), John Zastrow (Barb Schneller)

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to [prayers@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:prayers@holycovenantucc.org).

#### **OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Rev. Cheri Dennis, Interim Pastor**

**Jon Weddell, M.Div, MSW, Minister of Music**

**Dawn Simmons, BSBF, Executive Assistant**

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