



This is a large mosaic chalice on the front of the pulpit at The Christian Church of Arlington Heights, Illinois. It is pieced together from remnants of communionware that were found in the rubble after a massive fire. The pulpit itself is made from charred wood from the fire. These are powerful visual and tactile reminders of the beauty that can come from brokenness and loss. May we find new hope, healing, and transformation of our broken places in the new year, for our God makes all things new.

“The real voyage of discovery consists, not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”
Marcel Proust.

“Approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day.”
Michael Josephson

OUR FAITH IS OVER 2000 YEARS OLD. OUR THINKING IS NOT,

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

January 1, 2023 10:55 am

Prelude

Kathi Smith

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Cheri Dennis

One: May the peace of the Christ Child be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Introit

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

Latin: Confitemini Domino quoniam bonus.

Confitemini Domino, Alleluia!

* Call to Worship

Jeff Edwards-Knight

One: A new day has dawned, a new year begun;

Many: **Call us, O God, so we may hear your voice.**

One: The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future;

Many: **Keep us, O God, in your ways and on your path.**

One: We enter this new year with hope and excitement;

Many: **Remind us, O God, that you lead us.**

All: **Guide us, O God, as we look to you and worship you. Amen.**

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

* Hymn

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

ELDERKIN

Hark! The herald angels sing. Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the Christ-child bring, Jesus, the light of the world.

*Refrain: We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.*

Joyful all you nations, rise. Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies. Jesus, the light of the world. (R)

Christ by highest heaven adored; Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord; Jesus, the light of the world. (R)

Hail, the Bearer of God's peace! Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the light of the world. (R)

Stories for All People

Laura Hankins

Special Music

“Here's One”
Traditional American Spiritual
Bill Englebreth, piano

arr. by Mark Hayes

Pastoral Prayer

Judah L. Jones

The Lord's Prayer

Manny Santiago

Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation. May your reign be a reality here on earth. May we become more interested in building your kin-dom here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above. Let us share our bread with those who hunger. Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness. Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil. For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Jeff Edwards-Knight

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace. What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

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

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

Special Music

“The First Noël”

Traditional

Bill Englebreth, hammered dulcimer; Judah L. Jones, guitar

* A Lesson from the Revelation of John 21:1-6a

Bill Englebreth

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them as their God; they will be God's peoples, and the Living God will be with them, and will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” And finally, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

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.**

The Sermon in Story and Song: New Beginnings

Story: Playing Santa
Song: The Work of Christmas

Story: Birth and Rebirth
Song: Bashana Haba'ah

Story: Sparrow
Song: Come Let Us Use the Grace Divine

Prayer of Covenant Renewal (*unison*)

Bill Englebret

Loving God, I am not alone, adrift in the universe, but I am yours, your creation, your child. I trust in your love and wisdom. So, make me into who I am to be. Put me to doing, put me to challenges. Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to you. Holy God, I am yours, and you are mine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Jeff Edwards-Knight

Let us put our trust in the Living God, who is faithful. Let us praise God for the abundance of creation in the sharing of our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Generous Love, bless the offerings this church has received. Stir up the gifts within for your glory, show your provision through the sharing of our resources, and empower us to steward our days as precious and holy. Amen.

* Doxology

ADESTE FIDELES

Praise God of all blessings,
Praise with songs triumphant,
O Praise our Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration, Christ is Lord.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Judah L. Jones

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

One: Holy are you...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Sharing of the Gifts

Songs during Communion

Kathi Smith

Prayer after Communion

* Hymn 154

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

SPIRITUAL

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

**While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (R)**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. (R)**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (R)**

* Benediction

* Benediction Response 144

MENDELSSOHN

Hail the Bearer of God's peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness,
Light and life our Savior brings
Risen with radiant, healing wings.
Mildly laying glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us all from earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the Christ-child bring!"

Postlude

Kathy Smith

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*Candid photographs and/or video recording share our work and witness
and invite others into the fellowship of our congregation. Some pictures/video
may be published in church print publications, on our website or on our
official social media sites. If you do not wish to have your image published,
please contact the church office by phone or email.*

**WE PROVIDE OUR EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME WITH HELP FROM:
Martha Bomely, Keith Dennis, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 3, 2023

Happy New Year

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.

WELCOME BACK REV. JUDAH JONES & REV. BILL ENGLEBRETH

The Reverend Judah L. Jones and The Reverend William R. (Bill) Englebreth are ordained ministers in the Western NC Conference of the United Methodist Church. They hold Master of Divinity (MDiv) degrees from Duke Divinity School. They just celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary on December 16. Judah continues to serve in extension ministry as a preacher, singer/songwriter, actor, artist, and comedian. She is currently active with Carolina Voices, Southern Songwriters Association, Charlotte Murder Mystery Company, and Planet Improv. You can follow Judah on Facebook at Judah Blind Prophet. Bill has recently retired from pastoral ministry after 31 years of service. He can now focus on his professional table tennis career. He is an International Umpire, National Referee, and Club Coach. He was inducted into the NC Table Tennis Hall of Fame in 2022.

USHERS, GREETERS, LITURGIST, AND COMMUNION SERVERS

Please sign up on SignUpGenius

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



SANDWICHES & BAGGED LUNCHES, JANUARY 29

Join us following worship! We'll assemble sandwiches and bagged lunches to be delivered to Roof Above early January 30th.

UPDATES FROM YOUR PASTORAL SEARCH TEAM

The Team will reconvene early January 2023. We've been busy at work and want to share what we are doing! Please see the church weekly electronic newsletter for a chronological document of our weekly accomplishments. Keep us in prayer as we continue this most important work!

FROM THE RACIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY TEAM

Holy Covenant has a [DonorsChoose giving page](#)! This offers a way for members to directly donate to classroom projects at historically underserved local elementary schools. The HC DonorsChoose giving page 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! The Holy Covenant DonorsChoose giving page will be available for donations year-round and you can even set up a monthly donation. See projects on the Holy Covenant [DonorsChoose giving page](#): and consider buying your books from Shelves, Charlotte's only Black-owned bookstore: <https://shelvesbookstore.com/>.



SOJOURNERS CLASS

Join us (in-person or via Zoom) on Sunday mornings at 9:45 for our Sojourners Class. We will return January 8th, when we will be discussing Philip Gulley's book *If Grace is True: Why God Will Save Every Person*. For more information, contact Pastor Cheri (cherid@holycovenantucc.org, 704-519-6016)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Andrew & Britany Bomely, Linda Carver, Gary & Linda Clark, Cindy Coble, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Carl Johnson, Helen Lambert, Sharon Landis, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Anita Taylor

Friends & Family Members

Nikki Arrigo (Kathleen Wagner), Bill Bennett (Kathleen Wagner), Tom Chevrier & Rob Lux (Kathleen Wagner), Laura Christian (Beth Sharp), Sandra Dobson (Joy Decker), 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), Matthew Sharp, Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), Christopher Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Eulene Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Joyce Tyler (Bill & Kim Tyler), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Joyce Ward (Ed Vickery), Tamber Watson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Chandra Winston (Deborah & Larry Winston), John Zastrow (Barb Schneller)

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to
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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