



## **Meditation**

**The new heavens and the new earth are not replacements for the old ones; they are transfigurations of them. The redeemed order is not the created order forsaken; it is the created order – all of it - raised and glorified.  
- Robert Farrar Capon**

**God places us in the world as fellow workers-agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God's world.  
— Desmond Tutu**

**Remember that vision on the Mount of Transfiguration; and let it be ours, even in the glare of earthly joys and brightnesses, to lift up our eyes, like those wondering three, and see no person any more, save Jesus only.  
— Alexander Maclaren**

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
TRANSFIGURATION ~ BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February 19, 2023 10:55 am

Prelude "Give Me Jesus" arr. J. Purifoy

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Jeffery Edwards-Knight

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Introit "Revelation 19" Jeffrey LaValley

*Presented by The Brighter Day Community Choir  
under the direction of Zacch Estrada-Petersen  
Gregory Wilson, Accompanist*

\* Call to Worship Terrence Hayes

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Holy One.

Many: **The Holy One is high on the mountain and exalted among the people.**

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Mighty One.

Many: **The Mighty God is sovereign, loves justice, and establishes equity.**

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Everlasting God.

Many: **The Everlasting God hears our cries and answers our call. Praise our God!**

\* Invocation (*unison*) Terrence Hayes

Radiant God, we come to you on the mountaintop to experience your glory. You come to us in the valleys. We meet you in gladness in a place where heaven and earth collide. May our worship of you encourage us on the journey and make us aspire to reflect your kingdom in the world. Transform us and keep us near to you. Amen.

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

\* Hymn

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

ELDERKIN

Joyful all you nations, rise. Jesus, the light of the world.  
Join the triumph of the skies. 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.*

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)

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (*unison*)

Glencie Rhedrick

Righteous God, we find ourselves wanting to retreat from the harsh realities of life. We can find ourselves lifted to high places and forget those we have left behind. Our concern for our neighbor too often dissipates at the point of our discomfort. Forgive us for wanting to dwell in your presence without being transformed with new energy for the work of your ministry. Amen.

Words of Grace

Glencie Rhedrick

Just as Jesus gifted the disciples with a moment of respite and awe, it is good for us to transcend movements in the presence of God. When we too often choose to linger there rather than enter into hard or even mundane places, God does not condemn us. With grace and compassion, Jesus encourages us in the direction we should go.

Song

“Glory to God”

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
And to the Christ, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. (3x)

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Stories for All People

Laura Hankins

Song

“Salaam”

M. Samir (Egypt)

**Salaam, salaam, the peace of God to every race.  
Salaam, salaam, the peace of God in every place.**

Pastoral Prayer

Glencie Rhedrick

Prayer for Illumination

“Listen God Is Calling”

NENO LAKE MUNGU (Tanzania)

**Listen, listen, God is calling through the Word inviting,  
Offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.**

Contemporary Reading

“Transfiguration”  
by Malcolm Guite

Kristin Andes

For that one moment, ‘in and out of time’,  
On that one mountain where all moments meet,  
The daily veil that covers the sublime  
In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.  
There were no angels full of eyes and wings  
Just living glory full of truth and grace.  
The Love that dances at the heart of things  
Shone out upon us from a human face  
And to that light the light in us leaped up,  
We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,  
A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope  
Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.  
Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar  
Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.

\* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 17:1-9

Glencie Rhedrick

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

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.**

Sermon

Glencie Rhedrick

Invitation to Generosity

Terrence Hayes

Jesus comes down to us as a gift of presence, compassion, and companionship, whose entire life is a demonstration of committed generosity and stewardship. We too are called to present our lives as a gift to the God who has created us and the world that needs what we have to offer in time, talent, and treasure. Let us reveal the glory of God by the giving of our good gifts.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (*unison*)

Terrence Hayes

**Generous God, may these gifts bring you glory and honor and meet the needs of your people. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

\* Doxology

THANK YOU LORD

**Thank you, Lord. (3x) I just want to thank you, Lord.**

\* Hymn 526

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

arr. Anders Nyberg

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',  
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (2x)  
Siyahamba hamba, siyahamba  
Ooo hamba,  
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (2x)

We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God. (2x)  
We are marching marching, we are marching,  
Ooo marching,  
We are marching in the light of God. (2x)

We are singing in the light of God,  
We are singing in the light of God. (2x)  
We are singing singing, we are singing,  
Ooo singing,  
We are singing in the light of God. (2x)

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',  
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (2x)  
Siyahamba hamba, siyahamba  
Ooo hamba,  
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (2x)

\* Benediction

Cheri Dennis

\* Benediction Response

FREEDOM IS COMING (South Africa)

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

Postlude

“Siyahamba”

arr. M. Sedio

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*Portions of this service adapted from Come Up and Down: Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.*

*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:**

Kristin Andes, Keith Dennis, Brian Hankins, Anne Hayes,  
JoAnn Jellison, Shakti Subramanian

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT**

**IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES UPDATE, JANUARY 27**

Currently we have been hosting all in-person activities with masking being **strongly** encouraged. The current Covid community risk for Mecklenburg County has decreased to low. Consistory has made the decision that we will continue in-person worship and activities with masking being optional. We will continue to monitor the situation and make changes as appropriate.

Blessings, Jeff Edwards-Knight, Consistory President

**WELCOME BACK REV. GLENCIE RHEDRICK**

Glencie is an ordained Baptist minister, currently serving as an associate minister at First Baptist Church-West. A graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, Glencie received her M.Div from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University and is currently a PhD student attending California Institute of Integral of Studies. Glencie currently serves as Chaplain for several organizations, is a local and national community activist and organizer, and was the former president of Mecklenburg Ministries. She is also an active member of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. Currently she holds the lead positions with numerous activist and outreach organizations. She is the convenor of a Facebook live show, 'SpeakingintheKeyofWE.' a conversation concerning Black Male Privilege and Patriarchy in the Church, raising the awareness of the biases women of African Ascent encounter in the Church and other segments of society.

**PLEASE WELCOME THE BRIGHTER DAY COMMUNITY CHOIR OF CHARLOTTE**

*Under the direction of Zacch Estrada-Petersen, Brighter Day Community Choir will share a gift in song today. They invite all to their upcoming concert *Lamb of God*, Sunday, February 26 at First Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1515 Remount Road, Charlotte at 4pm. We are grateful for their time with us today.*

## **ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 - SERVICE OF HAN-PURI, 7PM**

Join us for this time of mediation & worship based on a Korean custom of bringing healing & wholeness by naming & burning the words for that which stands in our way. Check the e-newsletter for a full schedule for this season of Lent.

## **MEET-UP FOR SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT TOUR, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**The Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth** is a traveling Smithsonian exhibit. Half of the exhibit, focusing on storytellers, fathering, imagining, and loving, is at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts & Culture in Uptown Charlotte. The other half, focusing on catalysts, myth-breakers, community, and loving, is at the Levine Museum of the New South, a five-minute walk away (401 S. Tryon St.). Join us, **Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> 11am**. Museum closes at 5pm, so leave as you complete the tour. The exhibit is free. Buy your own lunch at Chipotle. *See our e-newsletter for agenda and to RSVP.*

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH PARTNERS WILL MATCH YOUR DONATION!**

Holy Covenant has a [DonorsChoose giving page](#) and your donation will be matched during Black History month! Our giving page offers a way for members to directly donate to classroom projects at historically underserved local schools. You can choose a classroom project, make a donation of any amount, and track our giving as a congregation. So far, we've given \$1,448 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 the 28269 or 28262 zip code and historically underfunded due to racial and economic inequity. Your Racial Justice and Equity Team

**GAME NIGHT, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25.** BYOGames (Bring Your Own) or just come join us in the church Gathering Room and learn some new ones. Game "fanatics" as well as newbies are welcome! We'll start at 7 pm and end around 10 pm.

There will be hot and cold beverages as well as snacks. (Please plan to wear masks for this event.) RSVP Suzanne Lamorey [slamorey@uncc.edu](mailto:slamorey@uncc.edu)

**CRAFTER'S CIRCLE** has resumed! We'll meet on Mondays at 1:30pm in the Gathering Room. All are welcomed.

## **FELLOWSHIP TIME, FIRST SUNDAYS EACH MONTH**

Join us in the gathering room at 9:30 next Sunday, March 5 for a muffin fellowship. Coffee & muffins will be provided. Contact Laura Hankins with any questions, [laura@hankins-clt.us](mailto:laura@hankins-clt.us).

## **USHERS, GREETERS, LITURGIST AND COMMUNION SERVERS**

We encourage sign ups of **greeters and ushers**, ready to welcome and help members and guests starting at 10:30 every Sunday; a **liturgist** to serve with Pastor Cheri; and **communion servers (elders, deacons and ordained clergy) and clean up**. Everyone is welcome in these roles! If you need an explanation of the mechanics of this, please

indicate that in the comments on the sign-up and we will make sure you are comfortable on your first Sunday. Ushers and Greeters, please contact the church office with questions. Communion Servers, please contact Laura Hankins with questions, [laura@hankins-clt.us](mailto:laura@hankins-clt.us). Please sign up on the SignUpGenius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ACAD23A2FE3-ushers>

## **SOJOURNERS CLASS**

New Sojourners Class beginning Feb. 26, 2023. We will be reading *The Other Side of the Wall* by Munther Isaac, a native Palestinian Lutheran pastor living and pastoring conflict. The book is available from Amazon.com in Kindle, Audiobook, and paperback. Join us (in-person or via Zoom) on Sunday mornings at 9:45 for our Sojourners Class. For more information, contact Pastor Cheri ([cherid@holycovenantucc.org](mailto: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 & Vickie Griffeth, Tom & Kathy Habel, Sharon Landis, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Ed & Beth Sharp, Anita Taylor

### **Friends & Family Members**

Shyhemm (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Nikki Arrigo and family (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), Chantel Hill (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Ann Johnson (Joy Johnson), Janey Pernice (Dawn Simmons), Yolanda Price (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Marie Raley (Jean Raley-Dennis), Barbara Rutelonis (Eric Miner), Matthew Sharp, Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), Christopher Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Eulene Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Joyce Ward (Ed Vickery), 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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