

*Carl Bloch, The Doubting Thomas, 1881*

**April 3, 2016**  
**10:30 am**

# Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

*\* Indicates to rise in body or spirit*

## **Prelude**

As the Prelude is played, please prepare to worship God in a spirit of prayerful meditation.

## **Welcome**

Yolanda Adams

Please pass the red friendship pads to sign in at this time. If this is your first time visiting, please legibly write your name and address so we may send you a letter of welcome and more information about our church.

If you have a prayer concern, you may fill out a prayer card located in the pew pads and place it in the prayer box in the Narthex or in the offering plate.

## **Chimes**

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Praise God with clapping hands;  
praise God with hands comforting a child.

**All: Praise God with silent hearts;  
praise God with hearts broken for the world.**

One: Praise God with electric guitars;  
praise God with soft piano chords.

**All: Praise God with be-bop and hip-hop;  
praise God with rhythms that don't stop.**

One: Praise God with a hallelujah chorus;  
praise God with a Gregorian chant.

**All: Praise God with dancing steps;  
praise God with feet walking for justice.  
Let us praise God with our whole being!**

### **\*Hymn #253**

“Yours is the Glory, Resurrected One!”

### **Prayer of Invocation (Spoken by all)**

**O Risen Christ, be with us this day. We recognize your wounded hands; they tell us that you know what it is to struggle and suffer, and how to prevail in the power of love. We grasp those hands, that they may lead us together into a deeper place of peace.**



Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**People: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather around Christ's table.**

One: This table is for everyone who wishes to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

### **Communion Prayer**

One: May the God of resounding joy be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Easter people, may your hearts be filled with joy!

**All: We join with all creation in shouting our praise to the One who loves us!**

One: Holy God, we praise and bless you... With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, God of surpassing greatness. Everything that breathes praises you. Hosanna in the highest!**

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion... and we may remain faithful in all things.

**All: In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.**

### **Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine**

#### **Sharing the Bread and Wine**

*(All are welcome at this table. Please come down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and return by one of the side aisles. Each station has a gluten free option. The liquid in the tall cup is wine, the liquid in the short cup is juice.)*

#### **Communion Anthem**

“Eat This Bread”

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving** (said in unison)

**Holy God, at this table we have touched and tasted and seen and**

heard the signs of your love for us. Now grant that we may leave this place filled with *our* love for you and overflowing with *your* love for all those around us so that they too might see, feel, and know your all-encompassing love and grace, through our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

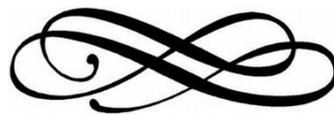
\*Hymn # 497

“Guide My Feet”

Postlude

Benediction

*Please join us in the Friendship Hall for a time of fellowship and light refreshments!*



**Welcome!**

*We are a progressive, risk-taking Christian faith community.*

*We follow the way of Jesus as the Christ and are welcome, open, and affirming to all.*

*We believe God is vibrant, alive, and still speaking to us!*

*We believe that God encourages us to engage the world through acts of mercy, peace, and justice.*

**For our guests and visitors:** we have several gender neutral restrooms: three behind the sanctuary and three more on the top floor of the education wing. For restrooms which are labeled male or female, we invite individuals to use the restroom they are most comfortable using.

**On Sunday April 10** we will celebrate Earth Day twelve days in advance! **The Rev. Scott Hardin-Neari**, Director of Creation Care Alliance of Western North Carolina, will be our guest preacher and the FCUCC Earth Team will help lead the service. Scott shared this quotation for our reflection: *“Today... we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.”-Pope Francis*

**On April 24, The Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund**, Vice President for Seminary Advancement at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis and author of the book *Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Family, and Church*, will be preaching at the 10:30 worship service as well as leading an Adult Forum at **9:00 AM** on *Mental Health and the Church* (please note the early start time for this special event).

## For Today's Service

Greeter/Usher: Michael Hutzler.  
Liturgist: Carol Bennett (Co-Chair Personnel Committee)  
Deacon of the Month: Jacque Wuelling.  
Alternate Deacon of the Month: Mary Ann Brackett (Handicap Door)  
Communion Prep: Carol Duin.  
Communion Servers: Matt Graham, Greg Knepper, Rev. Margot Pickett, Tara Darby.  
Security Floater: Matt Graham.  
Childcare/Nursery: Marcella Gonzalez.

**Deacon of the Month:** Jacque Wuelling: jacque45@live.com, 314.409.4850 (Mobile)

**Alternate Deacon of the Month:** Mary Ann Brackett: mochasmoms2@charter.net, 828.777.6384

## Our Staff

Rev. Margot Pickett, Interim Senior Minister  
(margot.pickett@uccasheville.org)  
Gary Mitchell, Assistant Minister  
(cantorucc@aol.com)  
Yolanda Adams, Ministry Coordinator  
(ministry@uccasheville.org)  
Harper Leich, Administrative Assistant  
(admin@uccasheville.org)  
Andrea Blankinship, Contract Accountant  
Taleese Morrill, Youth Ministry Coordinator  
(taleesemorrill@gmail.com)  
Viviana Altamirano, Custodian

## Events and Opportunities to Connect *More information on our website: [www.uccasheville.org](http://www.uccasheville.org)*

**Lunch Bunch:** Most Sundays, a varying group of us leave from the church around noon and head to a local eatery close by and just have a good time getting to know each other. All are welcome and for more information please contact Beaver Wyatt at 828-231-3113 or beaverwyatt@bellsouth.net OR just find her at church. Ask a greeter or usher for help finding Beaver or the lunch bunch!

**Sacred Pause:** Come and use artmaking/coloring as a way to find some meditative quiet and self-reflection in your life. Mondays 5:45-8PM Room 105 in the education wing of FCUCC.

**Stir the Soul Café:** Usually on Wednesdays, this will be on break until April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Weekly Book Club:** You are welcome to join a book discussion group that meets each week on Tuesday's at 10 am at 48 Dover Street, Asheville. We would very much like to have YOU!!! Please call Spence or Carol Duin 828-254-4068 or Doug or Carol Groben 828-712-4417 for details. The new book that will be discussed is "What's So Amazing About Grace" by Philip Yancey. This study will start in mid-April.

**Earth Team Garden Planning:** Any members and friends interested in helping with our church garden, please join Earth Team for a garden planning session on April 10 in the library following worship.

## Faith Formation Classes

*More information on our website: [www.uccasheville.org](http://www.uccasheville.org)*

**Big Change to Youth Sunday School:** We are now offering **Teen Church during the service**. When the children leave the service for Children's Church the teens will go up to the youth tower for Teen Church with Taleese Morrill. Some Sundays, everyone will stay in worship.

**Children's Church:** On Sundays other than communions Sundays (first Sunday of the month), children are invited to leave the service with either JP Morrill or Gary Mitchell for Children's Church following a Time with Children. On the second Sunday of the month, children will return before the last hymn with Gary. On the third and fourth Sundays, parents/guardians will pick up their kids from E-205 after worship. First Sundays, they are invited to stay in worship.

**New Faith Formation Class beginning April 3<sup>rd</sup>: "Joy of Sects"**– The class will be delving into the history and basic ideas of some of the major religions such as Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism. Class will continue through May 15<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday, and will be facilitated by Rev. Brenda Lewis.

**Book Discussion Group with Rev. Margot Pickett: Beginning on April 6<sup>th</sup>,** Margot will be facilitating a Wednesday night group study based on the book "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time" by Marcus J. Borg. Questions like "What does it mean to take the Bible seriously but not literally?" will be explored along with many others. Group discussion will start promptly at 5:30 pm in E-107 and end at 6:30. Please pick up a copy of the book so you can join the discussion! Margot has two copies of the book to lend; contact her if you'd like to borrow one (margot.pickett@uccasheville.org). **Please read chapters 1 and 2 for the first meeting and come with your questions.**

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

9:15 am "Joy of Sects" Faith Formation with  
Rev. Brenda Lewis E-101

9:15 am Children's Chime Choir in E-107

10:30 am Worship, Rev. Margot Pickett

11:30 am Friendship time in Friendship Hall

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch off campus

12:00 pm Laundry Love (off campus)

### Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

5:45 pm A Sacred Pause (meditation through  
creativity) E-105

### Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

5:30 pm Book Group with Rev. Margot Pickett

5:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

6:30 pm Choir Practice

### Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

9:15 am viewing of a short film "Ten  
Commandments to Avoid Extinction" in  
room E-107

9:15 am "Joy of Sects" Faith Formation with  
Rev. Brenda Lewis E-101

9:15 am Children's Chime Choir in E-107

10:30 am Worship, Rev. Scott Hardin-Neari

11:30 am Friendship time in Friendship Hall

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch off campus

12:00 pm Earth Team Garden Planning Meeting

5:30 pm Youth Group in Tower Room

5:45 pm Faith & Flicks Movie in Library

### Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

5:45 pm A Sacred Pause (meditation through  
creativity) E-105

### Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am Staff Meeting

7:00 pm FCUCC Game Night

### Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

5:30 pm Book Group with Rev. Margot Pickett

5:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

6:30 pm Choir Practice



*Thomas who Doubted – J Kirk Richards*

**First Congregational UCC is located at 20 Oak Street in downtown Asheville.** Please send all mail to PO Box 3211 Asheville, NC 28802.  
**[www.uccasheville.org](http://www.uccasheville.org)      828-252-8729**

**The Staff Parish Relations Ministry (SPR)** is seeking interested people who feel a passion for helping to serve a pastoral role in the life of the church. Members work to complement the ministry of the clergy and deacons. We currently have three people who have agreed to serve and are looking for an additional three people. Members of this Committee will keep discussions confidential except when appropriate to share with the Personnel Committee.

If you have an interest in serving FCUCC in this role, please contact Carol Bennett, Chair of Personnel ([ckbennett10@gmail.com](mailto:ckbennett10@gmail.com)). Please include a brief description of the talents you believe you would bring to this group. Deadline for applications is April 5, 2016.