



Kate Cosgrove "Mini Nativity"

**Third Sunday of Advent  
Crèche Service  
Sunday, December 13, 2015  
10:30 am**

# Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

\* Indicates to rise in body or spirit

## Welcome

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.

## Voluntary “What is This Fragrance”- Haan Oak Street Ringers

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath Dr. Chris Cain & Frank Freeman

One voice: The third week of Advent is the week we light the pink candle on our Advent wreath. As we gather here we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayerful reflection and of beautiful music when we sing songs of joy. The Christmas season is a time when even the busiest of us pause in wonder, the wonder that God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all people.

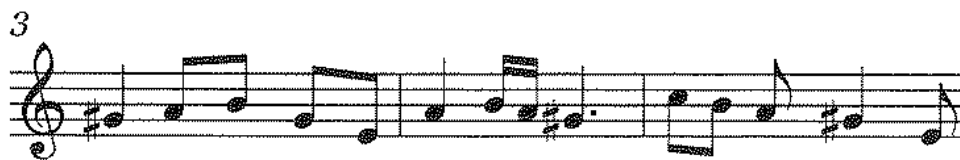
One voice: “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.” (I John 4:7-9)

One voice: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is love. Such abundant love helps us to love God and one another.

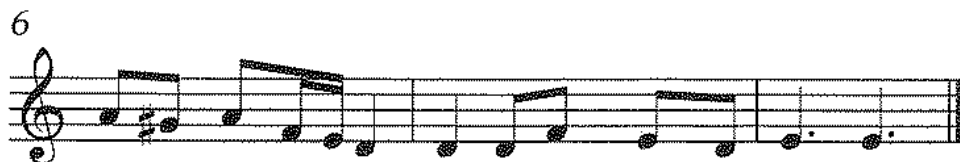
(Light the third candle in the wreath.)



Light three can-dles to watch for Mes - si - ah



let the light ban-ish dark - ness Lift your hearts and



lift high the gate-way for the Sov-ereign of glo - ry

## Sung Response

“Light 3 Candles to Watch for Messiah”

## Unison Prayer

*Come, Long-Expected Jesus, come again in the midst of the pain of the world, birth in us freedom from fear, release us, O Hope of the Earth, and reign in us forever. Amen.*

**\*Processional Hymn #122** “Come, O Long Expected Jesus”

## Service of the Crèche

- Anthem** “I Believe” - Miller
- Reading #1** Luke:1: 26 – 28 Rev. Margot Pickett
- Hymn #106** “My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise” v.1&3  
(alt. tune Ellacombe #12)  
*Placing of the Angel during the singing of hymn*
- Reading #2** Luke 1:39-58 & 80 Ellenor Frelick
- Hymn #119** “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” v. 1&5
- Reading #3** Matthew 1:18-24 Rev. Paul Gillespie
- Anthem** “Joseph’s Song”
- Reading #4** Luke:2: 1-5 Leslie Boyd
- Anthem** “Take Heart, The Journey’s Ended”
- Hymn #133** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” V. 1&2  
*Placing of Mary and Joseph*
- Reading #5 –A** Luke 2:6-7 Wes Heath
- Hymn #124** “Away in A Manger” v.1&3  
*Placing of the baby*
- Reading #5 – B** Luke 2:8 -14 Wes Heath
- Anthem** “Jubilate”
- Reading continues**
- Anthem** “Westminster Carol” – arr. Nygard Jr.
- Hymn #125** “Angels We Have Heard on High” v.1-3

**Reading #6** Luke 2:15 – 18

Gavin Snider

**Messiah Recitatives-** G.F. Handel

There Were Shepherds – Cara Pollard

And, Lo The Angel of the Lord – Megan Worrell-Lupton

And The Angel Said unto Them

**Choral Anthem** “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” -J.S. Bach

**Hymn** “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

*Placing of Shepherds- during hymn*

*1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down , and glory shone around.*

*2. Fear not, said he for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind. Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and human kind.*

*3. To you is David's town this day is born of David's line, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign*

*4. The heavenly Babe you there shall find, to human view displayed, all warmly wrapped in swathing bands and in a manger laid*

**Reading #7** Luke 2: 19-20

Alison Langley

**Anthem** “Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good”- French Carol

**Reading #8** Matthew 2: 1-11

Rev. Paul Frelick

**Hymn#148** “What Child is This”

*Placing of The Wise Ones-during hymn*

**Anthem** – Why Not Buy an Extra Present –Sammes

**Reading #9** Matthew 2:12-23

Ellenor Frelick

**Anthem** “Sing Noel!”

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer (Maori Version)

*Earth Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer,  
Source of all that is and all that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:*

*May the hallowing of your name  
echo through the universe!*

*May your heavenly will be done  
by all creatures great and small!*

*And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth!*

*With the bread we need this day, feed us.*

*For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.*

*Through times of temptation, strengthen us.*

*From trials too great to endure, spare us.*

*From the grip of all that is evil, free us.*

*For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love. Amen.*

## We Offer Our Gifts

**Offertory**      “Two German Carols” - arr. Merrett

**Offertory Anthem** – Bell Choir

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Hymn #136**      “Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child”

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

## For This Week's Service

Greeter: Dean Fisher

Deacon of the Month: Mary Kancevitch

Alternate Deacon of the Month: Sharon Stepp (Handicap Door)

Advent Wreath Lighters: Dr. Chris Cain & Frank Freeman

Nursery/Childcare: Denise Potts

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## TODAY

- **Annual Congregational Meeting** Please do your best to join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting in the Friendship Hall today after worship. We will be electing new board members as well as voting on next year's budget. Anyone is welcome to attend and anyone who has joined First Congregational as a member is able to vote on these issues.
- **Community High School** gifts must be wrapped and turned in today! Contact Yolanda if you have any questions!
- We are taking up the **Christmas Fund Veterans of the Cross offering**. The Christmas Fund provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. Please use the special envelopes in your bulletin for this collection, or mark "Veterans of the Cross" on your memo line.

## Classes & Workshops

**Sundays at 9:15 am:** Join Rev. Brenda Lewis for a drop-in style Bible Study on the topic of 1 Corinthians. Anyone is welcome to attend as often as they like. In E-101.

**Mondays at 5:45-8pm:** Creative Contemplative Group. Join us in some meditative art-making! No art experience or supplies needed. Drop-ins welcome. Please arrive on time. In E-107

## Calendar

### Sunday, December 13, 2015

Paul G. E-101 - Syrian refugee support 9:00 AM  
Intergenerational Youth Group Friendship Hall 9:00  
Special Crèche Service 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
Celebration Singers Winter concert sanctuary 2:30 -  
5:30 PM  
FCUCC Youth group tower Room 2 5:30 - 7:00 PM  
Faith & Flicks E-101 5:45 PM - 8:00 PM "Smoke"

### Monday, December 14, 2015

Creative Contemplative Group class w/Mandy E-  
105 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

### Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Staff meeting Library 10:30 AM  
Men's Group w/Bill p - Library 6:30 PM -  
8:00 PM

### Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Stir The Soul Cafe - Library 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bell choir E-101 5:30 PM  
Church Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

### Thursday, December 17, 2015

Cantaria holiday concert sanctuary 7:30 PM

### Sunday, December 20, 2015

Our Sunday to Provide Entire Meal at Pritchard  
Park 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Kitchen  
Bible Study with Brenda Lewis E-107 9:15  
AM - 10:15 AM  
Worship 10:30am  
Earth team meeting - library 12:00 PM  
Laundry of Love FCUCC youth off campus 12:00  
PM - 3:30 PM  
+Youth Outright tower room #1 3:30 PM -  
6:30 PM  
Cantaria holiday concert sanctuary 4:00 PM

### Monday, December 21, 2015

[Longest Night Service sanctuary 5:30 - 6:30 PM](#)



Not everyone finds Christmas to be filled with joy and laughter, and it's a hard time *not* to be happy when everyone and everything around us says we should be!

This service is designed as a time of prayer, lament, scripture and music to help us remember that the Light came into the world and the darkness has not overcome it.



Thursday, December 24th at 6:00 pm

“All paths lead to Bethlehem” is the title of a children’s book and the theme of our Christmas Eve service.

We will celebrate traditions and sing carols from around the globe as the whole world awaits Christmas morning.

Communion will be served and children are encouraged to join us.

Welcome! WE ARE...

*AN LGBT OPEN and AFFIRMING Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
and a Just Peace Church.*

*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.*



*Kate Cosgrove*

**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**