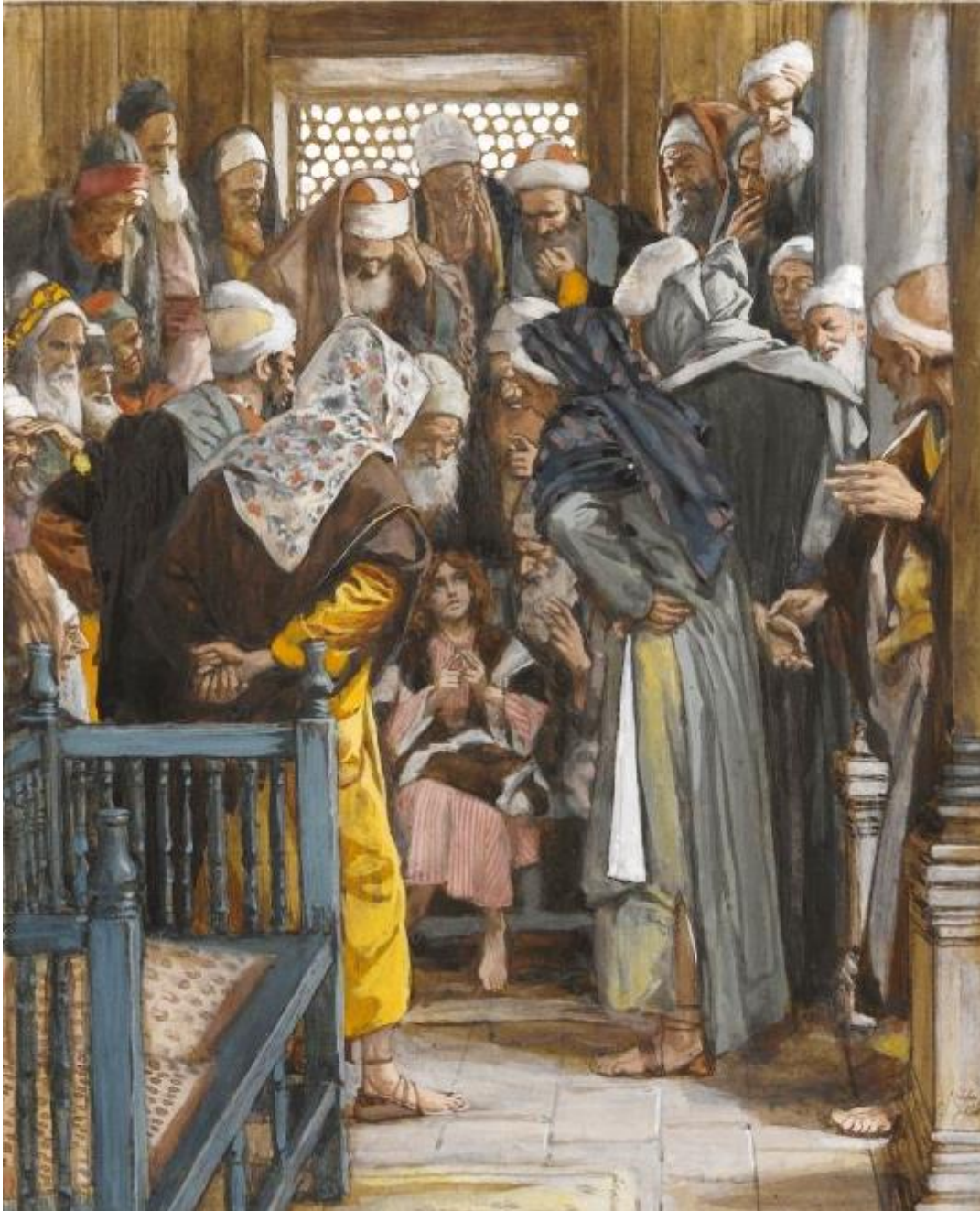




ASHEVILLE
First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Jesus • Justice • Prayer • Peace



James Tissot, *Jesus among the Doctors*

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 27, 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

“Tableaux for Christmas” - Young

Call to Worship

Leader: Christ is born!

People: *Christ IS born!*

Leader: Because of this birth, life is full of promise for you and me. Life is full of promise for our community.

People: *We celebrate today the presence of God’s promise in our midst.*

Leader: The promise of a small child coming into a crowded, hurting world, growing up in the temple, and becoming a liberator.

People: *It’s the promise of you and me, struggling and stumbling together, growing and celebrating, reaching out to make a new presence in our world.*

Hymn # 126

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Prayer

O Christmas God—the happy day of celebration is over, the needles on the tree are growing brittle, and the joyous notes of carols are fading. The blessing of Bethlehem that touched all the gray in our lives with star silver is past. We read that the holy child grew and became strong and God’s favor was with him. In the string of nameless days ahead we long for just such steady becoming—for renewal amid the routine, for courage in the face of current events,

for the assurance of your presence beyond our holidays and into the wintering times of our lives. Amen.

First Reading

I Samuel 2:18-20

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

All: *Thanks be to God!*

Anthem

“Jesus Bambino”

Cara Pollard

Time with Children

Gary Mitchell

After a Time with Children, children may follow Gary out of the sanctuary and into a classroom for a time of religious exploration and education, and will return to the sanctuary before the last hymn. Children are also welcome to remain in worship.

***Passing the Peace**

Second Reading

Luke 2:41-52

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

All: *Thanks be to God!*

Sermon

“Growing up in the Church”

Rev. Margot Pickett

***Hymn #145**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Prayers of the People

We Offer Our Gifts

Call for Offering

Prayer

***Hymn #154**

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

Benediction

For Today's Service

Greeters/Ushers: Randall Bowman

Liturgist: Chris Nealis

Deacon of the Month: Mary Kancevitch

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

Nursery/ Childcare: Marcella Gonzalez

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.



John Everett Millais, *Christ in the Home of his Parents*

**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

828-252-8729