



Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Sunday January 17, 2016

10:30 am

Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

** Indicates to rise in body or spirit*

“Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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.

Chimes

Voluntary

“Steal Away to Jesus” - Spiritual

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Our Mother-Father God has made us to be One Body with many members.

All: United and uniting. This is our calling.

God calls us to share our diverse gifts inspired by the one and same Spirit.
United and uniting. This is our redemption.

God longs for us to be united in love and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.
United and uniting. This is our worship.

Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship to our Holy God, who challenges us and calls us to *create the Beloved Community*.

***Hymn # 394**

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Invocation (Spoken by all)

**O God, all people are your Beloved,
across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations
and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.
We are all manifestations of your image.**

*We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality
and tied to a single garment of destiny.*

**You call us into your unending work
of justice, peace and love.**

Let us know your presence among us now:

**Let us delight in our diversity
that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty.**

**Strengthen us with your steadfast love and
transform our despairing fatigue into
hope-filled action.**

**Under the shadow of your wings in this hour
may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope.**

**We ask this, inspired by the example
of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr.,
and in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***Hymn # 570**

“We Shall Overcome”

(verses 1, 2, 5, 6)

Scripture

Isaiah 62:1-5

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

Anthem

“Precious Lord Take My Hand”- Spiritual

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

Time with Children

Gary Mitchell

*After a Time with Children, children may go with Gary to the Education Wing for a time of religious
exploration and education, and return to the sanctuary before the last hymn.*

Children are also welcome to remain in worship.

***Passing the Peace**

Sermon

“The Beloved Community”

Rev. Margot Pickett

***Hymn #314**

“Community of Christ”

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus Taught (Maori version, spoken by all)

**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

Initiation

Offertory “Swing Low Sweet Chariot”-Spiritual

Prayer of Dedication (Spoken by all)

**O God, we commit to use all our gifts--wisdom, knowledge, faith,
healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues,
administration, hospitality, and finances-- in the service of acting
as co-workers with you and each other for *peace and justice to flow
like a mighty stream.***

***Hymn # 593**

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

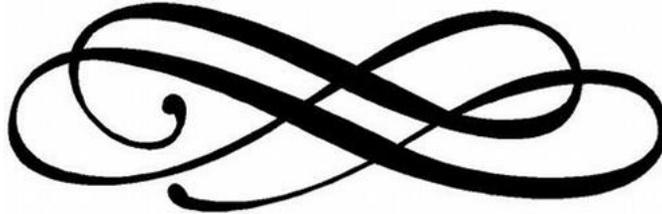
BENEDICTION

Leader: Let us go forth to celebrate and strengthen our *inescapable network of mutuality*,

All: **And become *the radiant hope needed in the world.***

As we go forth in this mutuality, may we experience our God rejoicing over us and with us.

Let us go forth confident that *unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word. Amen!*



Phrases from the speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. have been woven into the prayer texts and are identified by italics.

Creating the Beloved Community: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany, Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend was written by the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, Founder and +Director of the Center for Spiritual Light, New York City.

Visitor Orientation today at noon! Head down to room E-101 after Friendship Time for a tour and brief introduction to our church.

For Today's Service

Greeters/Ushers: Mary Ann Brackett & Beaver Wyatt

Liturgist: Judy Slater

Deacon of the Month: Beaver Wyatt

Alternate Deacon of the Month: Judy Slater

Childcare/Nursery: Denise Potts

Today After Worship

Natural Cleaning Workshop: at noon today in the Children's Church room (E-205). Join Wes Heath for an overview of how to clean your home using natural, safe, and earth friendly cleansers. Brought to you by the Earth Team and everyone is welcome to attend.

Current Faith Formation Classes

Fear and Love: Jane Stoffer will facilitate a four-week discussion on Fear and Love beginning January 10. The focus of each session is as follows: Love of Self and Other; Be Not Afraid; Perfect Love Casts Out Fear; and Practicing Love. Sundays at 9:15 am in E-107.

Bible Study of 2 Corinthians with Rev. Brenda Lewis: From the time of the earliest Christians, the church has struggled over disagreements related to everything from practical morality to theology and worship style. Join us when you can on Sundays at 9:15 am as we learn how God is still speaking in our current situations through this ancient but still relevant letter. E-101. This is a continuation of her 1 Corinthians class, but no previous attendance required.

For our Visitors and New Attendees

Visitor Orientation TODAY at noon: If you have been visiting with us for a while and want to find out more about the church and membership as well as take a short tour of our building please meet Yolanda in Room E-101 (in the downstairs education wing) at noon. The orientation will not be long but it will be informative.

Exploring the Path to Membership Classes: January 24th and January 31st, 9:15 am in E-101. If you have been visiting our church for a while and are thinking about joining, here is an opportunity to learn more about our church and the denomination as a whole. Classes will run for two Sundays beginning on January 24th. Each week attendees will hear from different speakers and have an opportunity to learn and ask questions about our church, what we believe, who we are and also about the wider missions of the UCC. Recommended reading is Balaam's Unofficial Guide to the UCC. We have a few copies available but you can purchase the book on Amazon as well. There will be handouts and a tour of the facility. We invite you to come with energy, questions and to be ready to have a joyful and educational experience. We know that not all can make it for both Sundays, but please come when you can. You do not have to come to classes to join the church but it is recommended. If you have questions, please contact Yolanda at ministry@uccasheville.org or 828.252.8729.

Join the church! Sunday February 14th will be New Member Sunday. If you have been waiting and are ready to join the church, this is your day! There will be New Member Bio Forms available in the Narthex beginning in January. Everyone is welcome to join, but we DO need to know ahead of time if you plan to do so! If you'd like to join or have questions, please contact Yolanda at ministry@uccasheville.org or 828.252.8729.

Events and Opportunities to Connect

Lunch Bunch: Are you new to the church or Asheville and looking for an informal way to meet new people? We have a lunch bunch most Sundays after church. A varying group of us leave from the church 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!

Stir the Soul Café: Wednesdays from 2-4 pm, you can join Loraine in the church library for a time of conversation and coffee or tea. Everyone is welcome to stop by!

Please don't throw your bulletin in the recycling bin! We are collecting bulletins for a craft project at the Church Retreat. Please just put them in a neat pile in the Narthex after worship. Thank you!

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

Welcome! WE ARE...

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

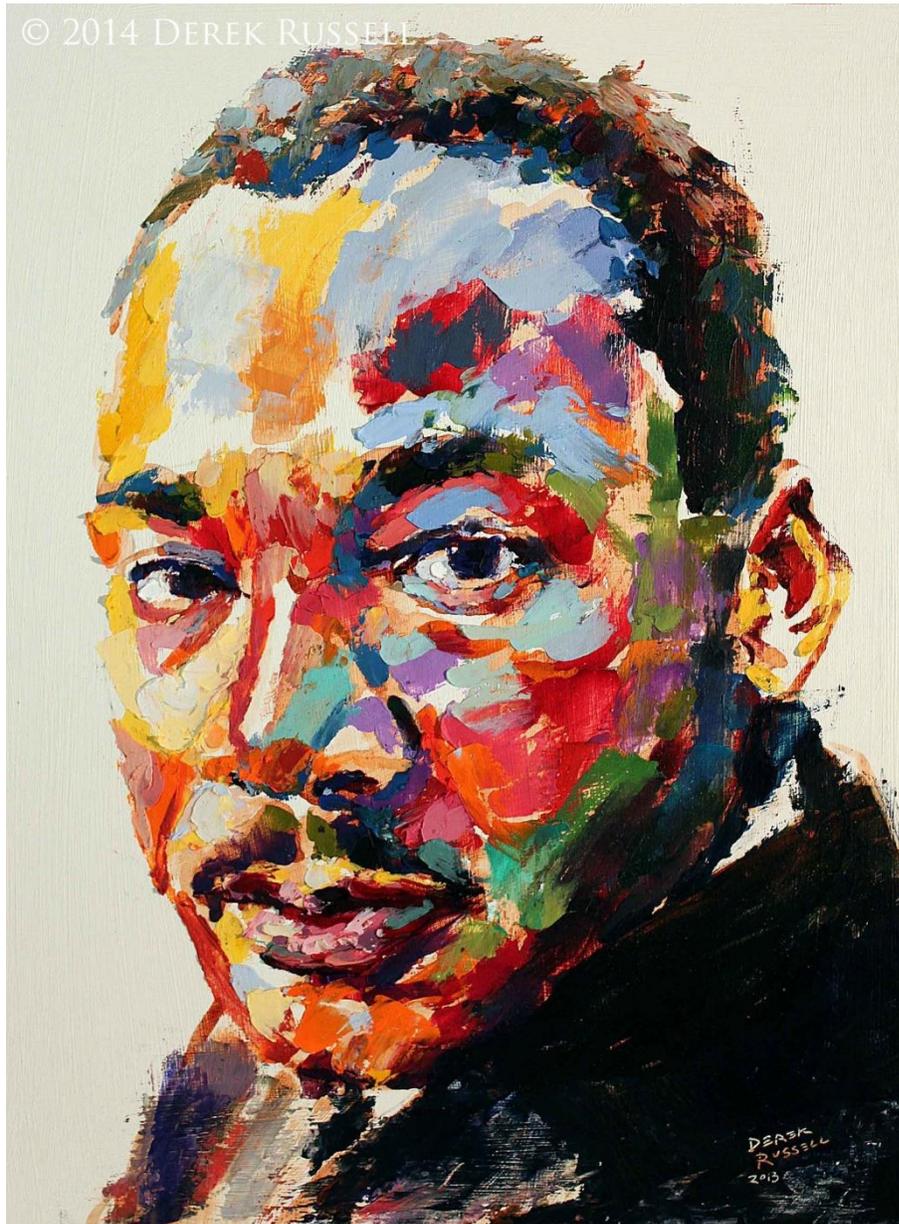
We are a progressive, risk-taking Christian faith community.

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.

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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