



"The Good Samaritan" Van Gogh



First Congregational United Church of Christ  
July 10, 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 when it is passed later in the service.

## Call to Worship

One: Blessed is God, who created us and loves us beyond measure.

**All: Blessed is God, who calls us to stop measuring out our love.**

One: Blessed is God, who speaks and tells us stories about ourselves.

**All: Blessed is God, who reveals to us who we are and who we could be.**

One: Blessed is God, whose compassion is poured out on every single person.

**All: Blessed is God, who gives us compassion to share with every single person, even people we do not know or care about.**

## \*Hymn #43

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

## Prayer of Confession (prayed in unison)

**O Holy God, we come in confession for our lack of love. We have neither loved ourselves nor our neighbors. We have passed by suffering and misfortune because of fear or busyness or preoccupation. We have held prejudices against people as deep as those that ancient Jews held against the Samaritans. Heal our pains, amend our faults, and guide us in ways of risk and compassion, for we pray in the name of Jesus, our most beloved neighbor, who cared for us even to the cross. Amen.**

## **Sung Response #77 (verse 2)**

**Lord, I want to be more loving, in my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more living in my heart.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: There is no greater joy in the heart of God than when a son or daughter opens to the gift of forgiveness. God's Spirit reaches out to assure us of God's amazing grace and embracing love.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ we are God's by grace. With great joy we are made alive. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **Scripture Reading**

Leviticus 19:1-4, 11-18

## **Anthem**

## **Time with Children**

Jane Stoffer

*Children and teens will remain in worship today.*

## **\*Passing the Peace**

## **Scripture Reading**

Luke 10:25-37

## **Sermon**

"Choosing our Neighbor?"

Margot Pickett

## **\*Hymn #498**

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

## **Ministry Updates**

Yolanda Adams

**Saying Farewell to Linda Comer and Craig McIntosh**

Sung Response: **"Go now in peace, go now in peace.**

**May the love of God surround you**

**Everywhere, everywhere you may go."**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

Prayer that Jesus Taught (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.**

## **Sharing our Gifts**

**Invitation to Share**

**Offertory**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn #23**

**“There’s a Wideness to Christ’s Mercy”**

## **Benediction**

*Please join us in the Friendship Hall for some light refreshments and conversation.*

*Our musicians today are Ruth Johnson and Michael Dawn Martoccio.*

*Thank you to David Jacobs for arranging the flowers for today’s service.*

## 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 Today's Service**

Greeter/Usher: Dean Fisher

Liturgist: Mary Kancevitch

Security: Randall Bowman

Childcare/Nursery: Kerby Wyatt

Deacon of the Month: Judy Slater  
(jbugslater@gmail.com)

Phone: 734-679-3497

Alternate Deacon of the Month: Mary Ann

Brackett - (Accessibility

Door)(mochasmoms2@charter.net)

Phone: (828) 777-6384

Childcare: Marcella Gonzalez

### **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

### **Nursery**

Our nursery is open during worship for babies and children pre-school age and younger. Children and babies may be dropped off by a parent or guardian before worship or after a Time with Children. (You will be asked to sign in and leave a cell phone number). They must be picked up as soon worship ends. They are also welcome to remain with you in the sanctuary.

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

#### **All Church Retreat August 12-14 at Lake Logan Episcopal Center**

The theme of this year's retreat is "Re-Imagine the Gifts of God: Sowing Seeds of Hope and Wholeness". Retreat Leaders are David LaMotte, Rev. Karen Richardson Dunn and Katie Warren, M. of Ed. The Transition Team will also facilitate a session on our church heritage immediately after lunch on Saturday. Registration forms are available in the Narthex (pink sheets) or in the plastic pocket outside Yolanda's office.

**Sacred Pause:** Come and use artmaking/coloring as a way to find some meditative quiet and self-reflection in your life. Mondays July 18 and August 22 at 5:45-8PM Room 103 in the education wing of FCUCC.

**Stir the Soul Café:** Meets Wednesdays in the library from 2-4 pm. Join Loraine Tuenge for a time of discussion and fellowship.

**Lunch Bunch:** Most Sundays after church, 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! Ask a greeter or usher for help finding Beaver or the lunch bunch!

**Game Night:** Tuesday, July 12th at 7:00 pm in E-105. Join Dennis and Mary for a fun evening of board games and other games.

**Hiking Trips with Randall:** We meet at the church at 9 am on the day of the hike in order to carpool. We will hike rain or shine but not in storms. On July 16<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to join us for a hike at Dupont State Park. Bring your four legged friend to share in this beautiful hike. Contact Randall for more info: bwr0165@aol.com

**Baseball with Beaver:** Each year our church has a date or two with the Asheville Tourists and of course, Beaver. The remaining dates are July 21 (Thirsty Thursday) August 19 (\$1.00 Hot Dogs and Fireworks.) Beaver will only take reservations for the upcoming month. Please let her know if you want to attend (231-3113).

**The Church and Mental Illness: A 3-Part Adult Forum Summer Series 9:30 am in E-101**  
**July 10th – Responding as People of Faith to Suicide. Suicide is a painful subject.** It is a tragic ending to a life haunted by pain and suffering. Too often the church has only responded with judgment and condemnation. How do we as a faith community respond with compassion, understanding, and grace to those whose illness brings them to a place where taking their lives seems the only solution to their pain? How do we offer love and support to those who have already lost someone they love to suicide?

**August 7th – Maintaining Hope and Resilience While Living with Mental Illness**

All of us need supportive resources and practices to help us sustain faith, hope, and resilience as we journey through our days. Persons living with mental illness often face even more challenges in holding on to hope as they navigate a life impacted by their illnesses. How can we as a faith community provide encouragement, nurture, and support along their journey? What kind of ministries might we develop to meet the needs of persons in our community living with mental illness?

*Facilitator: Rev. Jerene Broadway, staff chaplain at Mission Hospital, where she serves primarily in the Copestone psychiatric units. Jerene is also a member of the board of National Alliance on Mental Illness Western Carolina.*

**Volunteers needed for the Summer Meals Program:**

*“For God satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.” Psalm 107:9*

We are once again participating in the Summer Meals Program offering healthy meals to kids over the summer. We will be serving meals prepared by the school system to children from 2 years old to 18 years old at the Ledgewood Apartments **each Thursday beginning on Thursday, June 18 until Thursday, August 18th, from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm.**

These lunches may be the only nutritious daily meal that these children get during the summer because most of these children are on the free or reduced cost meal program at the school. We are very lucky once again to have an air-conditioned, safe and clean place to serve during the hot summer days. If you want to be a volunteer that serves meals and entertain the children, there is no training required.

Please contact Beaver Wyatt or Mary Kancevitch to sign up or sign up on the sheets in the Narthex.

We still need books to give away as well and personal care items such as toothbrushes and tooth paste and educational games and puzzles.

**The Transition Team** will be hosting small group discussion sessions before and after worship on July 17, 24, and 31 to discuss whatever questions and issues arise for you as you reflect on our timeline which is on display in our Art Gallery. We also encourage you to attend the All Church Retreat, August 12-14, or at least come on Saturday for lunch and a 90-minute session immediately after lunch where we will talk more in depth about what we have learned from our collective history and bring this phase of our process to a close. In September we will start focusing on the Vision and Mission of this church and the kind of Leadership needed to fulfill our mission.

*Gary Mitchell is on vacation until Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Please allow him some extra time to get back to you!*



**First Congregational UCC**

**20 Oak Street Asheville, NC 28801**

Please send all mail to PO Box 3211 Asheville, NC 28802.

**[www.uccasheville.org](http://www.uccasheville.org)      828-252-8729**

**[www.facebook.com/FCUCC](http://www.facebook.com/FCUCC)**



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