



"The Sheperdess" Bouguereau



**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
July 3, 2016 10:30 am**

Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

** Indicates to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Conrad Ekkens

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 (from Psalm 30)

Leader: Let us sing praises to God, all you faithful ones,

People: and give thanks to God's holy name.

Leader: God does not abandon us in our distress.

People: God's healing presence restores us to life.

Leader: Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**People: Indeed, God turns our mourning into dancing;
God takes off our sackcloth and clothes us with joy.**

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God, and not be silent.

People: O Lord, our God, we will give thanks to you forever!

***Hymn #592**

"God of the Ages"

Opening Prayer (prayed in unison)

Gracious and loving God,

**we give you thanks for all the blessings we experience—
the freedom to worship you without fear,
the bounty and diversity of your creation,
and the precious gift of unexpected joy.**

As we draw near to you this hour,

may we immerse ourselves in your healing presence.
Refresh us and renew us
that we might become faithful laborers
in your harvest of peace, justice, and joy.
We pray in the name of our great Healer,
Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Prayer Response #769

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 9:35-38

Anthem “If with all Your Hearts Ye Truly Seek Me” (from Elijah) – Felix Mendellsohn
Conrad Ekkens

Time with Children

Margot Pickett

Since today is communion, children and teens are invited to remain in worship.

***Passing the Peace**

Scripture Reading

2 Kings 5:1-15a

Sermon

"All the Little People"

Margot Pickett

***Hymn #332**

"As We Gather at Your Table"

Sharing our Gifts

Invitation to Share

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Friends, God prepares a feast for you and all people; a feast of good things, a feast of healing and peace. Come and taste. Eat and be filled. Drink deep and never thirst again. Come to the feast God prepares.

Words of Institution (I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Communion Prayer

Leader: We all come to this table troubled, O God. We each have burdens to carry that hold us back: fears and insecurities; griefs and guilt; prejudices and selfishness. We name them now.

*(Silence as we quietly name what weighs us down
and impedes lives of fullness and grace.)*

Leader: We come to this table, hope filled. We come to taste the broken bread, that frees the world; that challenges governments; that eases pain; that lifts our burdens; and we break it now.

(Silence as the bread is broken.)

Leader: We come to drink from Christ's cup of blessing, that breaks open the promise; that unseals the covenant; that offers its very self; and we pour it now.

(Silence as the wine is poured.)

Leader: When Jesus sat at the table with his disciples they were commemorating their liberation from slavery in Egypt. At this table today we celebrate our freedom in Christ to be healthy and whole people, renewed and ready to serve in Jesus' name.

All: As we eat and drink together we give thanks for God's love and grace that frees us indeed.

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks.

People: We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and

joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, may become the bread of healing and peace for one another and the world.
Amen.

***Hymn #459**

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Benediction

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



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

Greeters/Ushers: Al & Ann Mojonier
Liturgist: Richard Howe
Communion Prep: Carol Duin
Communion Servers: Terry Kaeser, Julie Everett, John Whitener, Yolanda Adams
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 after worship finishes. They are also welcome to remain with you in worship.

Faith Formation for Children and Teens

We celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every month and encourage your children and youth to be part of that sacrament. Therefore, we do not offer Faith Formation classes on first Sundays. On all other Sundays of the month, we invite our children to go to a multi-age class in room E 205 following the Time with Children. Our teen youth meet with Taleese Morrill or volunteer parents in the Youth Tower on those Sundays.

Events and Opportunities to Connect *More information: 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 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 16th, 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.

Friendship Time: It's back in the Friendship Hall this week. Please start bringing in those goodies again. Fresh fruit, hummus and healthy options are preferred, but ANYTHING WILL BE APPRECIATED.

Nametags: PLEASE WEAR YOURS! If you don't have one, we will make one for you. Just ask the greeter at the front door Sunday morning where to request one. It's important to know each other's names so we can know our all in our community.

A note about the artwork: The images this week focus on the 'little people' from the text. Mainly the slave girl who suggested that Naaman set off on his trek in order to be cured. Of course, the cover image is from the wrong time and place, but it does highlight the fact that he listened to someone like her with such little power- a slave and a young girl at that! – Harper Leich, Administrative Assistant

Our offices will be closed on Monday, July 4th

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

First Congregational UCC

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www.uccasheville.org

828-252-8729



Naaman's Wife, Frank William Warwick Topham