



The Procession in the Streets of Jerusalem - The Return, James Tissot

Sunday March 20, 2016
Palm Sunday 10:30 am

Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

** Indicates to rise in body or spirit*

Words of Welcome and Announcements

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.

Call to Worship

One: Come! From the city streets and the country roads.

All: Join the happy throng that gathers to honor Jesus!

One: Come! From your busy homes and places of business.

All: Put down your work in joyful celebration!

One: Come! Lay down your sorrows and worries,

All: Turn your eyes toward the One who rides in triumph on a donkey.

One: Let us join in joyful songs of anticipation.

All: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!

***Processional Hymn #216 “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”**

Prayer of Confession (spoken by all)

O God, we are like the people of Jerusalem so long ago.

We are hungry for a hero.

We crave some glimpse of greatness.

We are starving for the spectacular.

We are gathered here like those who watched

The Passion-Parade in Jerusalem,

Craning our necks to catch a glimpse of our Messiah.

As we wait here for the Savior to come

Let us not be disappointed when the special one appears

Even though we are certain to be surprised;

And give us courage to follow

Where the one on the donkey might lead us.

Amen.

Silence is kept

Response

“Kyrie”

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son
on our world and on our way
Ky - ri - e e - leio - son ev ' - ry day

Assurance of Pardon

One: God does not turn away when we fail to be faithful.

All: God does not reject us when we do not trust fully.

One: God continues to love us, to forgive us, to restore us.

All: It is God who helps us; it is God who saves us.

One: It is all we need or ever will need.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

(Children may leave with JP Morrill for Children's Church during this time. Parents should meet their children in Room 205 of the Education Building immediately after the worship service.)

***Hymn #215** “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”

Sharing Our Gifts

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication (spoken by all)

**We cast these gifts before you, O God,
as palms were cast before Jesus long ago.
We lay them on your table in praise, thanksgiving, and joy.
Receive them back from our hands,
that they may become a greater blessing in your hands.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Scripture

Luke 19 (Readers and congregation)

Reader 1: Having said this, Jesus went ahead with the ascent to Jerusalem. Approaching Bethphage and Bethany, near what is called the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of the disciples with these instructions:

Reader 2: "Go into the village ahead of you. Upon entering it, you'll find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and lead it back. If anyone should ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Rabbi needs it.'"

Reader 1: They departed on their errand and found things just as Jesus had said. As they untied the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you doing that?" People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along. As they reached the descent from the Mount of Olives, the entire crowd of disciples joined them and began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying,

**Congregation: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Our God!
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!**

Reader 1: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus,

Choir: "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

Reader 2: Jesus replied, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!"

Sermon

"From Palms to Passion"

Rev. Margot Pickett

***Hymn #222**

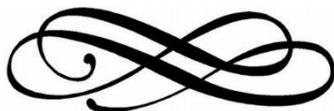
"My Song Is Love Unknown"

Pastoral Prayer

Choir

"Calvary"

Please join us in the Friendship Hall for a time of fellowship and light refreshments.



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: Mary Cowal & Diane Reid
Liturgists: Wes Heath & Ellenor Frelick
Deacon of the Month: Matt Graham
Alternative Deacon of the Month: Terry Kaeser
(Handicap Door)
Security/Floater: Randall Bowman
Nursery/Childcare: Denise Potts

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

Upcoming Special Worship Services

Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service: Thursday, March 24th at 7:00 pm. On Maundy Thursday we will not only celebrate Jesus' last supper but we will also spend some time "in the shadows" (that is origin of the word Tenebrae), trying to imagine the emotions and the events of the turbulent days of Jesus' betrayal and death through music, readings, and actual shadows. I hope you will join us as we pause, reflect and ponder all that happened on those days between Palm Sunday and Easter.

Good Friday Concert: Friday, March 25th at Noon. Join Tenors Gary Mitchell and Conrad Ekkens for a concert of sacred music on Good Friday, March 25th at 12:00 noon. The 45 min concert will include both spirituals and classic works by Faure', Dubois, and Bach. The duo will be accompanied by pianist Ruth S. Johnson. The concert will be held in the sanctuary of First Congregational UCC and is free and open to the public during the noon hour.

Easter: Sunday, March 27th at 10:30 am: Please bring some fresh flowers to decorate the cross before worship.

Events and Opportunities to Connect *More information on our website: www.uccasheville.org*

Lunch Bunch: Most Sundays, 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!

Sacred Pause: Come and use artmaking/coloring as a way to find some meditative quiet and self-reflection in your life. Mondays 5:45-8PM Room 105 in the education wing of FCUCC.

Stir the Soul Café: Usually on Wednesdays, this will be on break until April 13th.

Faith Formation Classes *More information on our website: www.uccasheville.org*

Big Change to Youth Sunday School: We'll be getting rid of Youth Sunday School class in the morning and will instead be having **Teen Church during the service**. When the children leave the service for Children's Church the teens will go up to the youth tower for Teen Church.

Children's Church: Children may go with JP or Gary to Children's Church following a Time with Children. On communion Sundays, they will remain in worship. Parents/guardians must pick up their kids from E-205 after worship. JP will be leading the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month, and Gary will lead the 2nd.

New Faith Formation Class beginning April 3rd: "Joy of Sects" (working title) – The class will be delving into the history and basic ideas of other major religions. This class will be very timely particularly with all the current events at play, and it would behoove us to have a better understanding of Islam in particular, but also Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism. This will last for approximately 7 weeks ending on May 15th, Pentecost Sunday. This class will be facilitated by **Rev. Brenda Lewis in Room E-101 at 9:15 am**. It will prove to be enlightening and contemplative.

Book Discussion Group with Rev. Margot Pickett: Beginning on April 6th, Rev. Margot will be facilitating a Wednesday night group study based on the book "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time" by Marcus J. Borg. Questions like "What does it mean to be a Christian if you take the Bible seriously but not literally?" will be explored along with many others. Group discussion will start promptly at 5:30 pm in E-107. Please pick up a copy of the book so you can join the discussion!



Church Calendar

Sunday, March 20th

9:15 am On the Road to Jerusalem Bible Study
In E-101.

9:15 am Children's Chime Choir in E-107

10:30 am Worship, Rev. Margot Pickett
Palm Sunday

11:00 ish Children's Church with JP

11:00 ish Teen Church in Tower room

11:30 am Friendship time in Friendship Hall

12:00 pm Earth Team Meeting in Library

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch off campus

5:30 pm Youth Group in Tower Room

Monday, March 21st

5:45 pm A Sacred Pause (meditation through
creativity) E-105

Tuesday, March 22nd

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 23rd

5:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

6:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 24th

7:00 Maundy Thursday Service in Sanctuary

Friday, March 25th

12:00 pm Good Friday Concert in Sanctuary

Sunday, March 27th

9:15 am Children's Chime Choir in choir room

10:30 am Easter Worship, Rev. Margot Pickett

11:30 am Friendship time in Friendship Hall

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch off campus

Monday, March 28th

5:45 pm A Sacred Pause (meditation through
creativity) E-105

Tuesday, March 29th

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 30th

5:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

6:30 pm Choir Practice

Sunday, April 3rd

9:15 am "Joy of Sects" Faith Formation with
Rev. Brenda Lewis E-101

9:15 am Children's Chime Choir in choir room

10:30 am Worship, Rev. Margot Pickett

11:30 am Friendship time in Friendship Hall

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch off campus

12:00 pm Laundry Love (off campus)

Monday, April 4th

5:45 pm A Sacred Pause (meditation through
creativity) E-105

Tuesday, April 5th

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, April 6th

5:30 pm Book Group with Rev. Margot

5:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

6:30 pm Choir Practice





Zambian artist Emmanuel Nsama depicts the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.



**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