



The Prodigal Son in Modern Life - The Return, James Tissot

Sunday March 6, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Lent
10:30 am

Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

** Indicates to rise in body or spirit*

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.

Voluntary

“Christe, Du Lamm Gottes” - Manz

Chimes

Call to Worship

One: As a shepherd seeks the lost sheep,

ALL: So God seeks and saves those who have wandered astray and away.

One: Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found, and when she finds it invites her neighbors to party with her,

ALL: So God celebrates and rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.

One: As a father receives a returning wayward child,

ALL: So God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.

One: Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received with open arms.

All: Let us receive, welcome and rejoice over one another in the name of Jesus Christ!

*Hymn #547

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Prayer of Confession (spoken by all)

Eternal, loving God, from the beginning of time you have called your children into loving relationship with you. Yet we confess that like all the rest, we have turned to our own way and refused your love and grace. Restore us to the joy of knowing you, and of recognizing your reign among us, through Jesus Christ, the bringer of your good news of love and life and reconciliation.

Words of Assurance

One: There is no greater joy in the heart of God than the moment when a son or daughter opens to the gift of forgiveness. God's spirit reaches out to assure us of welcome in Christ.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven by grace! With great joy we are made alive.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Sung Response

"Kyrie"

Sung together

Ky - ri - e _____ e - lei- son _____

on our world and on _____ our way_

Ky-ri-e _____ e-leio- son ev-'ry day

First Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Anthem

"Lenten Anthem"

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 after the sermon.

Children are also welcome to remain in worship.

*Passing the Peace

Second Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon

"The Prodigal"

Rev. Margot Pickett

*Hymn #349

"I Come with Joy"

Ministry Updates

Yolanda Adams

Sharing Our Gifts

Call for the Offering

In addition to the regular offering, we are also taking up a collection for One Great Hour of Sharing through the UCC. Please use the envelope provided for that special offering or write OGHS in the memo line of your check.

Offertory “My Song is Love Unknown” arr. Burkhardt

Prayer of Dedication

The Lord’s Supper

Invitation

When Jesus sat at the table and enjoyed communion with tax collectors and sinners, he proclaimed that God’s care knows no bounds. We proclaim again the comfort and challenge of that witness: all are invited now to share God’s table and be nourished by the Bread of Life.

The Eucharistic Prayer

One: God be with you,

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts:

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us thank God:

All: It is good to give thanks to God.

One: We give thanks, O God, that you have provided for all the worlds that ever were or ever will be by giving yourself to them in love. If we go to the heights of the mountains, or if we make the grave our bed, you are with us. If we go to the depths of the sea, your right hand holds us fast.

We thank you for Jesus, your Word, who lived among us, uncovering your presence. We thank you that you stamped his death with victory and that Life, not Death, was the final word.

We ask now that you bless us, as we share this bread and cup, that we might be nourished by that same unbounded love and so be encouraged to be your servants to the world.

Sharing the Bread and Wine

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. . . . *(Here the people may say the names of those who are brought with us, in spirit, to the table.)*

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives. Come, for all things are ready.

(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 dark liquid is wine; the lighter liquid is juice. There will be a communion station in the balcony for those seated there.)

The Thanksgiving

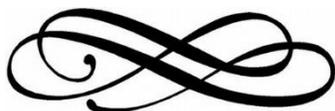
One: Let us give thanks.

All: We give thanks, O God, that in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table and touched our deepest needs. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, might nurture one another and being strengthened and loved become a transforming presence in the world.

***Hymn #476**

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

Benediction



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

For Today's Service

Greeters/Ushers: Matt Graham & Tammie Shepler
Communion Prep: Tara Darby
Liturgist: Rev. Paul Frelick & Ellenor Frelick
Communion Servers: Jerry and Betty Dillashaw, Joanne Roudebush, Tara Darby
Deacon of the Month: Matt Graham
Alternate Deacon of the Month: Terry Kaeser (Handicap Door)
Childcare/Nursery: 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

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.

Faith Formation Classes

More information on our website: www.uccasheville.org

On the Road to Jerusalem Bible Study: Sundays February 28, March 6, 13, 20 at 9:15 am in E-101. Bible study led by Julie Everett which will cover the text of that day's service.

Youth Sunday School: Typically the last Sunday of each month, Youth Group (middle and high schoolers) will have Sunday School in the tower room starting at 9:15 am. Breakfast will be served. Next meeting is April 3rd.

Lenten Study: Wednesdays 2-3pm in the lower level education wing led by Rev. Loraine Tuenge. Join her for coffee and tea in the library following the study.

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!

Stir the Soul Café: Wednesdays from 2-4 pm, you can join Loraine Tuenge in the church library for a time of conversation and coffee or tea. Everyone is welcome to stop by! During Lent, there will be a Lenten study from 2-3 in the downstairs education wing and coffee/tea 3-4 in the library.

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.

Earth Sabbath Worship: Thursday, March 10, 5:30, the FCUCC Art Gallery: Dr. Jill Crainshaw, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Blackburn Professor of Worship and Liturgical Theology at Wake Forest University School of Divinity, and Rev. Karen Richardson Dunn of Creation Care Alliance of WNC (CCA), will lead a CCA-sponsored Earth Sabbath worship service titled "Flint: Lamentation and Hope." Please join us in this meaningful call for environmental justice.

Upcoming Special Worship Services

Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 20th at 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, March 24th at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Concert: Friday, March 25th at Noon

Easter: Sunday, March 27th at 10:30 am

Staying Informed

Would you like to receive our weekly e-newsletter? It's a great way to stay up to date and informed about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, next week's liturgical text, notes from Rev. Margot and Yolanda and more. It's easy! Just go to our website, scroll down on the homepage and enter your info in the sign-up provided! www.uccasheville.org

Church Calendar

Sunday, March 6th

Room in the Inn ends

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
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

11:30 am Friendship time in Friendship Hall

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch off campus

5:30 pm Youth Group in Tower Room

Monday, March 7th

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

Tuesday, March 8th

10:30 am Staff Meeting

7:00 pm Game Night in E-105

Wednesday, March 9th

2:00 pm Lenten Study in E-105

3:00 pm Stir the Soul Café in Library

5:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

6:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 10th

5:30 pm Earth Sabbath Worship, Gallery

Sunday, March 13th

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

11:30 am Friendship time in Friendship Hall

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch off campus

5:30 pm Faith & Flicks in Library

Monday, March 14th

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

5:30 Executive Board Meeting in Library

Tuesday, March 15th

10:30 am Staff Meeting in Library

6:30 pm Men's Group in Library

Wednesday, March 16th

2:00 pm Lenten Study in Library

3:00 pm Stir the Soul Café in Library

5:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

6:30 pm Choir Practice

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

11:30 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

2:00 pm Lenten Study in E-105

3:00 pm Stir the Soul Café in Library

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 E-107

10:30 am Easter Worship, Rev. Margot Pickett

11:30 am Friendship time in Friendship Hall

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch off campus



Charalambos Epaminonda, Prodigal Son

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