



"The Works of Mercy" by Jen Norton

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

**May 29, 2016**

**10:30 am**

# Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

*\* Indicates to rise in body or spirit*

## **Prelude**

Gary Mitchell

*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** (based on Psalm 96)

**Leader:** Sing to our God a new song,  
Sing to the maker of heaven and earth--

**People:** **Sing of wisdom and beauty, healing and strength!**

**Leader:** Declare God's glory among all people  
Show the marvels of God to the whole world--

**People:** **Sing of wisdom and beauty, healing and strength!**

**Leader:** God longs to be known in the world;  
God's power overflows all boundaries and walls—

**People:** **Sing of wisdom and beauty, healing and strength!**

**Leader:** Worship our God in holy splendor--

**People:** **Sing of wisdom and beauty, healing and strength!**

**\*Hymn #70** "God is Here! As We Your People Meet"

## **Opening Prayer** (spoken in unison)

**Holy One,**

**You astonish us with your generosity.**

**You pour forth your goodness on all you have made,**

**And are not limited by the barriers we place on your grace.**

You constantly move the hearts of strangers as well as friends,  
Enemies, as well as neighbors.  
Let your grace flow through us here and now  
That we may see all peoples as you see them--  
Beautiful, whole, deserving of mercy and justice—  
And let our lives be shaped by that graced vision.  
All this we ask in the name of Jesus,  
Who offers to all abundant life. Amen.

**Response**

“Weave us Together”

The musical score is written on three staves in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a common time signature. The second staff begins with a measure rest labeled '4'. The third staff begins with a measure rest labeled '7'. The lyrics are: 'Weave weave weave us to- geth - er weave us to- geth - er in u - ni - ty and love. Weave weave weave us to- geth - er weave us to - geth - er to - geth - er in love'.

**Scripture Reading**

Psalm 133

**Time with Children**

Taleese Morrill

*After a time with Children, children K-5 may go to the Children's Church room with JP Morrill. Teens may go to the Tower Room. Parents and guardians will need to pick them up after worship.*

**\*Passing the Peace**

**Scripture Reading**

Acts 2:40-47 (The Message)

**Sermon**

"Be the Church"

Margot Pickett

**\*United Church of Christ Statement of Faith #885** in our hymnbook

**\*Hymn #388**

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

## **Concerns and Celebrations**

Yolanda Adams

### **Sharing Our Gifts**

#### **Invitation to Share**

Let us give in the spirit of the One  
Whose grace overflows all human boundaries;  
Whose love knows no limits;  
Whose generosity knows no measure.

#### **Offertory**

##### **Prayer of Dedication** (spoken in unison)

**Gracious God, we give these gifts because you ask us to share.  
We dedicate this offering and our lives to your service,  
that the hungry may be fed, the powerless be healed,  
and the stranger welcomed in our midst.  
We offer this prayer in the name of the bearer  
of your good news, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**\*Hymn # 591**

"This Is My Song"

### **Benediction**

**Leader:** People are discouraged:

**People:** **Let's astonish them with hope!**

**Leader:** People are divided:

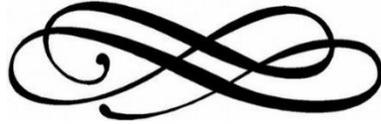
**People:** **Let's astonish them with friendship!**

**Leader:** People are afraid:

**People:** **Let's astonish them with generosity!**

**Leader:** Go out into the world to be a channel for the grace of God,  
The love of Christ and the fellowship of the Spirit,  
Given to us to share with all!

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

Deacon of the Month: Terry Kaeser 618.889.9082

Alternate Deacon of the Month: Carol Duin 828.254.4068 [scduin@gmail.com](mailto:scduin@gmail.com)

### **For Today's Service**

Greeters/Ushers: Jim & Ann Beggs

Liturgist: Rev. Loraine Tuenge

Deacon of the Month: Terry Kaeser

Alternate Deacon of the Month: Carol Duin  
(Disability Door)

Security/Floater: Randall Bowman (Door  
Checks & Monitor)

Nursery/Childcare: Denise Potts

### **Our Staff**

**Rev. Margot Pickett**, Interim Senior  
Minister ([margot.pickett@uccasheville.org](mailto:margot.pickett@uccasheville.org))

**Gary Mitchell**, Assistant Minister  
([cantorucc@aol.com](mailto:cantorucc@aol.com))

**Yolanda Adams**, Ministry Coordinator  
([ministry@uccasheville.org](mailto:ministry@uccasheville.org))

**Harper Leich**, Administrative Assistant  
([admin@uccasheville.org](mailto:admin@uccasheville.org))

**Andrea Blankinship**, Contract Accountant

**Taleese Morrill**, Youth Ministry  
Coordinator ([taleesemorrill@gmail.com](mailto:taleesemorrill@gmail.com))

**Viviana Altamirano**, Custodian

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

**Camping Trip:** We have found a location for our all church campout September 23-25<sup>th</sup>. We need your \$20 deposit ASAP to reserve our spots! Make checks out to FCUCC with "camping" in the memo line and put in the offering plate or give to Mary Ann Brackett today. Please see our website for full info: [www.uccasheville.org/all-church-camping-trip](http://www.uccasheville.org/all-church-camping-trip). Mary Ann Brackett is organizing and can answer questions.

**Sacred Pause on Monday Nights:** Starting in June, Sacred Pause will meet monthly from 5:45 to 8pm on the following dates: June 20 (Yolanda Adams leads), July 18 (Loraine Tuenge leads), August 22 (Jacque Wuelling leads).

**Bringing Hope to the Climate Crisis through Faith and Action:** June 3rd at 10 am at First Congregational in the Friendship Hall. First Congregational UCC and Creation Care Alliance will be welcoming Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Minister and President of the UCC's Massachusetts Conference, and nationally recognized environmental activist, as he presents the workshop "Bringing Hope to the Climate Crisis through Faith and Action," followed by a Q & A session.

**Guest Preacher and Workshop Leader June 26<sup>th</sup>:** Please plan to join us on June 26 when we will have a special guest preacher, Rev. Elizabeth (Beth) Kennett, from the Center for Congregational Health. Beth is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ who specializes in consulting and coaching ministries. Beth also has expertise in transitional issues, team building, and conflict management. She will introduce us to the "Five Cs of Congregational Health: Clarity, Conflict, Communication, Community, and Change," focusing primarily on Communication and Community. The Transition Team has highlighted these as areas of growth for FCUCC as we move into the future and has invited Beth to preach **and lead a workshop immediately after worship** for the congregation on June 26. We hope many of you can be there!

**Mental Health Ministry:** We will be hosting a three-part Summer Series on the matters and topics surrounding Mental Health. Reverend Jerene Broadway will be leading this series during the Sunday School (Faith Formation) hour, from 9:15 am to 10:15 am in Room E-101 the **12th of June, the 10th of July, & the 7th of August.**

Each class will be geared towards different aspects of Mental Health and Illness so you don't have to come to all three to understand and engage in the conversation. This will be an informative and compassionate series and we hope that you will be able to come as often as possible.

Reverend Jerene is a member of our church and is a staff chaplain at Mission Hospital, serving primarily in the Copestone Psychiatric Units. She is also a member of the board of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Western Carolina.

**Art Gallery Exhibit** Our next gallery show will be by portrait artist Jacob William Bennett. Jacob graduated with honors from Young Harris College in May with a major in Art and will be moving to the U.K. to being a Masters Program at the University of Leeds in September. Jacob will be in worship with us on **Sunday June 5th** and will stay for a meet and greet in the gallery during the coffee hour. I encourage all our artists to stop by and meet this exciting young talent.

**Calling All Graduates:** If you or anyone in your family are graduating this year, please send Yolanda information on the graduate such as name, where they are graduating from, and where they are going. From Kindergarten to Doctorate, we will honor all on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> in the worship service. Please send information to [ministry@uccasheville.org](mailto:ministry@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.** If you haven't been to one of our wonderful retreats before, please consider coming this year. It is a rejuvenating experience. Registration forms are available in the Narthex (pink sheets) or in the plastic pocket outside Yolanda's office. More information can be found on our website: [www.uccasheville.org](http://www.uccasheville.org).

**The Transition Team** invites everyone to add their names to the Timeline hanging on the wall in Friendship Hall. Find the year when you started attending regularly and/or joined the church and using a marker provided near the timeline write your name. We think it will be very interesting to see when folks became part of our "family tree!"

**Summer Meals Program:** *The majority of the school aged children in Buncombe are food insecure. Most children in the school system are on a free or reduced cost meal program. Last year the Summer Meals Program gave out almost 105,000 meals in 8 weeks. So....* Once again we will be participating in the Summer Meals Program and serving meals at the Ledgewood Apartments each Thursday beginning on Thursday, June 18 until Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. We will be serving meals prepared by the school system to children from 2 years old to 18 years old. We did this last year and really fell in love with the children we were serving as well as their parent/guardian. We brought books to read and give away as well and personal care items such as toothbrushes and paste, puzzles and educational games.

If you want to be a volunteer that serves meals and entertains the children, there is no training required. If you want to volunteer as a Site Supervisor, there is training (40 minutes online) and a background check is required. Sign-up sheets will be ready today so please see Yolanda to sign up or email [ministry@uccasheville.org](mailto:ministry@uccasheville.org)

## Church Calendar

### **Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Friendship Time in Fellowship Hall

12:00ish pm Lunch Bunch (off campus)

12:00 pm Laundry Love (off campus)

### **Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Offices closed for Memorial Day*

### **Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**

10:30 am Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

2:00 Stir the Soul Café in Library

### **Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

10:00 am in Friendship Hall: Climate Workshop with Jim Antal

### **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:15 am Children's Chime Choir in Sanctuary

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Friendship time in Friendship Hall

12:00 pm Transgender 101 Lunch & Learn in Friendship Hall

# BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment.* Care for the poor.

Forgive often. **Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*

God is still speaking.  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



**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**