



*“Michal Despises David”, Tissot*

**Season of Ordinary Time**  
**November 15, 2015**  
**10:30 am**

# *Jesus Justice Prayer Peace*

\* *Indicates to stand in body or spirit*

## **Welcome & Ministry Updates**

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.*

## **Voluntary**

“Fantasy on Melia”

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: You, O God, have been our dwelling place,

**All: *When we felt lost.***

One: You, O God, have been our spiritual home,

**All: *When we felt alone.***

One: You, O God, have been our hiding place,

**All: *When we were afraid***

One: You, O God, have been our shepherd looking for a lost sheep,

**All: *When our hearts were searching for meaning.***

One: You, O God, have been faithful in all generations,

**All: *When we felt insecure.***

One: Let us worship God with all our hearts and minds.

**All: *Praise be to God!***

### **\*Hymn #1**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

### **Opening Prayer**

One: O God, sometimes we wonder if you are with us or not.

**All: *Yet, we seldom ask ourselves if we are with you.***

One: We often wonder what more you can do for us,

**All: *But we neglect to ask what more we can do for you.***

One: When we challenge others more than challenging our own assumptions, motives, and attitudes,

**All: *Forgive us God, and help our fears.***

One: For the times when we discredit others for their appearance, their social status, and their imperfections,

**All:** *Forgive us God, and help us to be humble.*

One: May we see others the way you see them.

**All:** *May we discover your face in the faces of people we encounter.*

## Silent Confession

### Prayer Response

“O God Hear my Prayer”

O God hear my prayer, O God hear my prayer,  
when I call an - swer me, O God hear my prayer, O  
God hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The second staff starts with a measure rest of 3 measures, then continues the melody. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line and repeat dots.

### Words of Assurance

**One:** God’s love has the power to break hearts of stone, spring forth a fountain of hope, and unleash a river of love. God’s Spirit seeks to work in us, that we may have life.

**All:** *Thanks be to God!*

### A Reading of Scripture

I Samuel 18:20-29

One: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us.

**All:** *Thanks be to God!*

**Anthem**            “When the Storms of Life are Raging”

**A Time with Children**

Gary Mitchell

*After a Time with Children, children may follow Gary out of the sanctuary and into a classroom for a time of religious exploration and education, and will return to the sanctuary before the last hymn.*

*Children are also welcome to remain in worship.*

**\*Passing the Peace**

**A Reading of Scripture**

2 Samuel 6:12-23

One: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us.

***All: Thanks be to God!***

**Sermon**

“From Michal’s Perspective”

Rev. Margot Pickett

**\*Hymn #316**

“We Limit Not the Truth of God”    Tune: Forest Green

**Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

Chaplain Col.—ret. Kristy Helton-Moeller

**The Lord’s Prayer (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.*

**We Offer our Gifts**

**Call for the Offering**

**Offertory**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn #591**                      “This Is My Song”

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Please join us in the Memorial Garden following worship for the  
interment of Elva Hunt's Ashes.*

**For This Week's Service**

Greeter/Usher: Michael Hutzler & Ricky Haralson

Liturgist: Rev. Emily Townes-Roland

Deacon of the Month: Randall Bowman

Alternate Deacon: Judy Slater (Handicap Door)

Childcare/Nursery: Denise Potts

# Volunteer Opportunities

- **Operation Christmas Hope at Community High School:** The first year we purchased Christmas gifts for 101 students, last year was 110 but this year....145! The cost per child is \$50 and you may choose to simply donate your money or you can wait to pick a child or two to buy directly for. This program means the world to these young adults as this may be the only Christmas present they receive and some ask for presents for their parents or their own children. You may donate by check or cash, just make sure that the memo line or envelope has "Community High School" indicated. We will also be asking for shopping help and gift wrapping help as well as donations of Christmas wrap and gift bags. For more info or to become involved, contact Yolanda (ministry@uccasheville.org).

## Activities

- **On Wednesday, November 18, 7-9 pm, Earth Team will host an Asheville presentation of NC WARN's Climate Roadshow in the Friendship Hall.** NC WARN educates and empowers citizens in their efforts to slow climate change. Executive Director Jim Warren, joined by other NC WARN staff, will lead a presentation and discussion on the WARN campaign, updated climate science, and what you can do about it. For more information, visit <http://www.nconconservationnetwork.org>.
- **Advent Wreath Making Workshop:** November 22nd at 11:30 am. Join us as we make advent wreaths from freshly cut greenery and candles for you to use in your home. Children are welcome to participate, with the help of their adults. Cost of materials is \$11. Please RSVP in advance so Gary can purchase enough materials: [cantorucc@aol.com](mailto:cantorucc@aol.com)
- **2nd Annual Church Christmas Party! December 4th at 6:00 pm in the Friendship Hall.** Join us for a festive and fun Christmas Party for all of the families of the congregation. There will be entertainment, finger foods and fun! We are asking everyone to bring a simple dish of "pick-up" foods and the church will provide the beverages, such as holiday punch, mulled hot cider, and soft drinks. Holiday attire (including ugly sweaters) suggested.
- **ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET December 6:** We are inviting all artists that would like to exhibit and sell during this event to participate. Each artist/vendor is responsible for the set up and breakdown of their booth. Booths can go up late Saturday evening or early Sunday morning. Please contact Yolanda for further info or if you would like to exhibit: [ministry@uccasheville.org](mailto:ministry@uccasheville.org).
- **Women - mark your calendars now for our Winter Women's Retreat - January 9.** Our theme this year is: The Women's Second Christmas (usually held on Epiphany) and we will again join with the First Christian Church women at the FCC - DOC on Enka Lake Road in Candler. Loraine Tuenge, Retreat Leader.

## Announcements

- **December Art Show:** I am inviting the congregation to join in on the December Gallery Show. The theme is *Religious Icons*. We have such a well-traveled congregation and I'm sure many of you have collected these beautiful things along the way. I hope you will share them with all of us in this special show. Please feel free to drop them off in my office sometime around the week of Thanksgiving. Feel free to share a story or give us the background for your icons. The show will open on Sunday December 6th. Peace, Gary
- **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:** Our Advent Devotionals are now here! Copies will be available the next few Sundays in the back of the Narthex. We are asking for a donation of \$5 to offset the cost of the purchase of the Devotionals and shipping cost. Give one as a gift and keep one as your own. There will be baskets at the back of the Narthex for your donations and Devotionals.

- **The WNC LGBT Health Fair will be on Tuesday, November 17th from 3-7 pm** at First Congregational United Church of Christ in downtown Asheville. The goal of this free event is to promote the physical and mental health of the WNC LGBT community by removing barriers to knowledge and services held during the open enrollment period of the Health Insurance Marketplace. Walgreens will be present offering the flu shot to anyone in the congregation at a reduced cost.
- **Calling all Joyful Voices!** The Joyful Voices Reader Theatre will be recruiting additional readers for a Lenten Worship service in Lent, 2016. Our readers eagerly and enthusiastically share stories and lead liturgy. If you like to act but are afraid you can't memorize lines, we have a place for you. We would like 4-6 persons to join our present cast of 10. We will have a information gathering meeting soon. Loraine Tuenge, Director of JVRT
- **LOOKING FOR SUGGESTIONS AND OPINIONS:** How would you feel about the church having a potluck meal on Thanksgiving Day for those who have no family or friends in the area with whom to spend the holiday? Or, how would you feel about inviting someone to share the Thanksgiving meal with your family? Do you know that there are a number of people who are in our congregation that are single or away from relatives and friends that need to be in community during the holidays? Let me know if you would be willing to throw the doors of the church or your home open to be hospitable to those who would like to be with others on Thanksgiving Day. Contact Yolanda at [ministry@uccasheville.org](mailto:ministry@uccasheville.org) with your ideas.

## Classes & Workshops

**Sundays at 9:15 am:** On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Brenda Lewis will be starting a drop-in style Bible Study on the topic of 1 Corinthians. Anyone is welcome to attend as often as they like.

**Mondays at 5:45-8pm:** Creative Contemplative Group. Join us in some meditative art-making! No art experience or supplies needed. Drop-ins welcome. Please arrive on time.

## Advent and Christmas

- **Crèche Service:** Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. A Sunday advent lessons and carols service that incorporates the placing of the Nativity figures on the communion table.
- **Longest Night Service:** Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Not everyone finds Christmas to be filled with joy and laughter, and it's a hard time not to be happy when everyone and everything around us says we should be! This service is designed as a time of prayer, lament, scripture and music to help us remember that the Light came into the world and the darkness has not overcome it.
- **Christmas Eve Service:** Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service that incorporates many beloved carols and ends with a candlelight singing of Silent Night. Children are welcome and communion will be served.

## Calendar

### **Sunday, November 15, 2015**

Bible Study 9:15AM E-107  
Worship 10:30 AM  
Earth Team Meeting 12 Library  
FCUCC Youth group tower Room 2  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

### **Monday, November 16, 2015**

Ex. Board mtg. Library 5:15-7:15 PM  
Creative Contemplative Group E-105  
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

### **Tuesday, November 17, 2015**

Staff meeting-Yo's office 11 AM  
Men's Group w/Bill -Library 6:30-  
8:00 PM

### **Wednesday, November 18, 2015**

Librarian in Church Library 2-4 PM  
Bell choir E-101 5:30 PM  
Church Choir in Choir Room 6:30 pm  
NC WARN's Climate Roadshow 7:00  
pm in Friendship Hall

### **Sunday, November 22, 2015**

Sunday School 9:15 am E-107  
Worship 10:30am 10:30 AM

### **Monday, November 23, 2015**

Creative Contemplative Group 5:30  
PM - 8:00 PM

### **Tuesday, November 24, 2015**

Staff meeting – Y's office 11 AM

### **Wednesday, November 25, 2015**

Librarian in Church Library 2-4PM  
Bell choir E-101 5:30 PM  
Church Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM -  
7:30 PM

### **Sunday, November 29, 2015**

Pritchard Park (Entire Meal)  
Bible Study 9:15 am  
Worship 10:30 AM  
Laundry of Love FCUCC youth off  
campus 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Welcome! WE ARE...

*AN LGBT OPEN and AFFIRMING Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
and a Just Peace Church.*

*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.*

**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](http://www.uccasheville.org)**

**828-252-8729**