



**Season of Ordinary Time  
World Communion Sunday  
October 4, 2015  
10:30 am**

# **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.*

We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us today. If you have any questions about us or the building, please ask one of our greeters! If you care to, please neatly print your name and address in the pew pads when they are passed down the pew and we will mail you a letter of welcome and more information about our church and its ministries. Visit our Facebook page or website to learn more about our classes, events, and ministries! You can sign up for our e-newsletter via our website. [www.uccasheville.org](http://www.uccasheville.org) [www.facebook.com/FCUCC](http://www.facebook.com/FCUCC)

## **Current Classes & Workshops**

**Sundays at 9:15 am:** Rev. Brenda Lewis is leading an ongoing, drop-in style Bible study focusing on the Book of Daniel. Downstairs in the Education wing in E-107. Join us as we study Daniel, one of the most vivid collections of stories and visions in the Old Testament. With fire and lions, mystical creatures and a few vegetarians in the mix, we will explore the way these ancient writings instruct us today as we make our way in the midst of our own decisions to either fit in or to defy the culture around us.

**Mondays at 5:45-8pm:** Art as a Spiritual Practice for Peace and Healing. Join us in some meditative art-making! No art experience or supplies needed. Drop-ins welcome. Please arrive on time.

# *Jesus Justice Prayer Peace*

*\*Indicates to stand in body or spirit*

Welcome and Ministry Updates

Yolanda Adams

Voluntary

**\*Call to Worship**

Rev. Margot Pickett

One: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

***All: God's mercies never come to an end;***

One: they are new every morning.

***All: God's faithfulness is greater than we can even dare to imagine!***

**\*Hymn #423**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

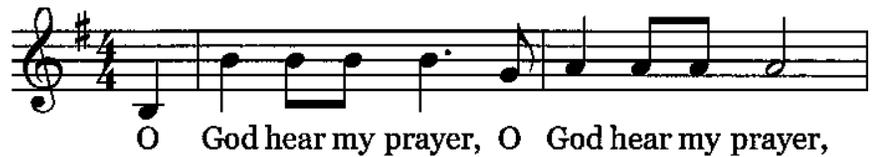
Unison Prayer

*Gracious God, we thank you that because of your great faithfulness to us we can rest in you, secure amid the conflict and confusion of life. We thank you that you provide for our needs and that you have trusted us to one another's care. Open us to receive all that you offer. And help us to share what we have with open hearts and without fear. May we be peacemakers and justice makers in our homes, workplaces, community, and church, so that your shalom may radiate from us to a hurting world and we may all know your healing and wholeness, through Christ Jesus. Amen.*

Our Own Quiet Prayers

## Prayer Response

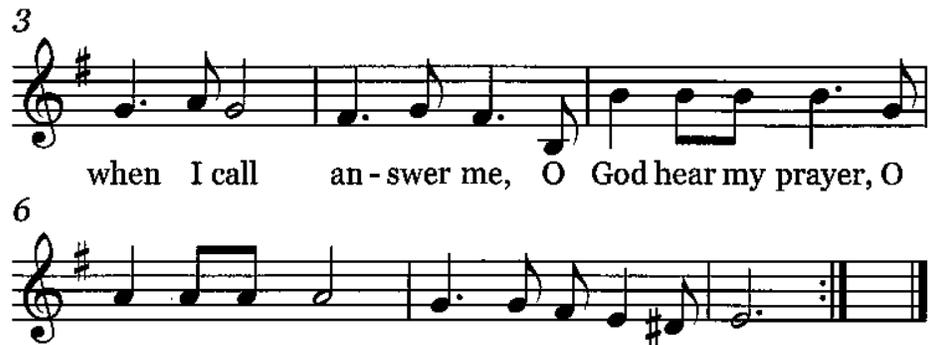
“O God Hear my Prayer”



## \*Passing of the Peace of Christ

## A Time for Children

*Children will remain in worship today.*



## Scripture Reading

Exodus 16:1-12

## Anthem

“For Such a Time as This”

Nina Pollard

*For Such a Time As This*  
*by Susan Palo Cherwien*

For such a time as this,  
For times of drought and shallowness,  
Of wild and dusty wilderness,  
Plant us deep in wonder, God,  
Humble in your holy world.

In wonder planted deep,  
In marvel at creation's play,  
At starlit night and sunlit day,  
Root us well in gratitude,  
Awestruck by beatitude.

By thankful wonder fed,  
Like oak trees reaching high and broad,  
And rooted fast in you, O God,  
Grow us in compassion full,  
Christ, firstfruit of us all.

Compassion green and bless  
Our lives to rampant fruitfulness,  
For crying out at wickedness:  
May we fruits of justice bear  
Harvest of your love and care.

May all our lives bear fruit,  
Not from our will, nought to us due,  
But all our fruitfulness from you:  
Hearts of justice, hearts of peace,  
Just for such a time as this.

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

## Sermon

“The Promise of the Wilderness” Rev. Margot Pickett

## \*Hymn #347

“Let us Talents and Tongues Employ”

## We Offer Our Gifts Offertory

## **We Gather at the Table**

### **Invitation**

Christ invites us all to this Holy Feast. As we gather this morning, we remember our sisters and brothers from above and below the equator, from the far east and the far west, from every climate and time zone around the globe. As today's sunlight inches across land and sea Christians gather to celebrate their place in God's family. All are invited and all are welcome.

### **Prayer of Preparation**

**One:** To God be the glory: God has done great things! To prepare ourselves to partake of this Holy Meal, let us pray: Healing God, we come before you broken, yet seeking wholeness, isolated, yet seeking community, overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity, shamed, yet seeking grace:

**All: God, we yearn for the healing you promise.**

**One:** God of Justice, we come before you selfish, yet seeking generous hearts, arrogant, yet seeking humility, responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness:

**All: God, we yearn for the justice you promise.**

**One:** God of Peace, we come before you afraid, yet seeking assurance, agitated, yet seeking serenity, angry yet seeking forgiving hearts:

**All: God, we yearn for the peace you promise.**

**One:** Knowing that through Christ all things are made new, we come to this communion table to be recreated through the bread and cup, and to be renewed in our faith and commitment.

**All: God, we submit ourselves to renewal through you. This we pray through Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

### **Preface and Thanksgiving**

**One:** Loving and gracious God..... With many tongues, yet with one voice, we honor you saying:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high.**

**One:** Loving and gracious God.... The Holy Spirit and Jesus, our friend and brother. Amen.

## Words of Institution

### Blessing of the Elements

One: God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with your neighbors near and far.

*All: Bless this bread, we pray.*

One: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-connectedness of people around the world.

*All: Bless this cup, we pray. May this simple meal bring us into union with you, your people and your world united in the One Body of Christ*

### Sharing the Elements

*All are welcome at this table. Please come down the center aisle, take a piece of bread or gluten free cracker, and dip it in the cup. The dark liquid is wine, the lighter liquid is juice. You may then return to your seat by way of one of the side aisles.*

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Praise God from home all blessings flow! With thanksgiving, let us celebrate our new life in Christ giving thanks to God our creator and sustainer: Loving and gracious God, thank you for this holy meal. Thank you for Jesus and his all-inclusive love for humanity. Thank you for this day which we worship and serve you. Amen.*

*The communion liturgy was written by Ana and Tod Gobledeale, who have served Global Ministries as local ministers in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Australasia, the USA, and England most recently.*

**\*Hymn #347**            “In the Midst of New Dimensions”

**Blessing**

Rev. Margot Pickett

**Postlude**

*Today after worship, join us the Friendship Hall as we enjoy some refreshments and welcome Margot!*

## **For this week's service**

Greeters/Ushers: Beaver Wyatt & Stephen DuBay

Liturgist: Ellenor Frelick

Deacon of the Month: Carol Duin

Alternate Deacon of the Month: Julie Everett (Handicap Door)

Communion Prep: Carol Duin

Communion Servers: Reverend Margot Pickett, Randall Bowman, Sharon Stepp, Beverly Reddick

Nursery/Childcare: Maria Gonzalez

## **Announcements**

**Please see our website for more upcoming events or to read our e-newsletter**

- **Rev. Joe is on a Leave of Absence.** Rev. Margot Pickett has started as our Interim Pastor. You can read more about her on our website: <http://www.uccasheville.org/our-interim-pastor.html>. If you want to send Rev. Joe a get well card, you can mail it to his home at 29 Birchwood Lane Asheville, NC 28805
- **Blessing of the Animals:** Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 am in the Memorial Garden. Officiated by Pastor Gary. Bring your well behaved, beloved pets to this fun and meaningful event!
- **We will be taking the Neighbors in Need Offering up on October 11th. Look for special offering envelopes that Sunday. Please either put your donation in the NIN envelopes or mark NIN on the memo line of your check.** Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.
- **Faith & Flicks:** The new season starts Sunday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 pm with a screening of Big Fish in E-101. Join us for a great movie and conversation.
- **Our Monthly Game Night** will be held off campus this month as our church will be in use by the Room in the Inn guests. Dennis and Mary will be hosting at their home! Join them - everyone is welcome! Tuesday, Oct. 13th at 7 pm. 399 Lakeshore Drive Asheville, NC 28804.
- **Reading Buddies Program with Johnston Elementary:** If you are interested in being a reading buddy for a student who needs extra help at Johnston Elementary, please contact Yolanda ([ministry@uccasheville.org](mailto:ministry@uccasheville.org)). There will be a brief training and orientation tour of

the school on the weeks of Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. ALL Reading Buddies will need to complete the form for background checks as a LEVEL 2 volunteer. Access the form at this link: <http://www.buncombe.k12.nc.us/Page/21699> - Yolanda

- **Community Gathering:** The board has scheduled a Community Gathering/Discussion about Joe's Fitness Review for Sunday, October 18th following worship. The Board will share as much of the information as possible and do our best to answer any questions you may have. **Please make plans to attend this meeting.** If you cannot attend please find another congregant who plans to be there who can share the information with you later.
- **Finance Report:** On Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> following worship Spence Duin, Chair of Finance, will present a report about our finances in the Friendship Hall. He will be reviewing our budgets and how well our giving and pledging has met up with our goals for this year.
- **Lunch Bunch:** Each Sunday after church, a few of us get together and have lunch together at a local restaurant. The group changes each week but there is always people wanting to eat so just check with Beaver Wyatt as to where we are going and tag along. Come, break bread with us or anything else you want to eat. It's fun!

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Complete details for all events, and our continuing prayer concerns can be found in our weekly e-newsletter. Sign up or read the most current issue on our website: [www.uccasheville.org](http://www.uccasheville.org). You can also scan the QR code with your smart phone or device to get to our website. You may also donate through Paypal on our website!

**Find us on Facebook** for photos, event invitations, news, and links to our e-newsletter: [www.facebook.com/FCUCC](http://www.facebook.com/FCUCC). You can also scan the QR code with your smart phone or device to get to our Facebook page!



**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**