



Jules Bastien Lepage "La Faneuse au Repos"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
September 4, 2016
10:30 am

Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

** Indicates to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

As the Prelude is performed, please prepare to worship God in a spirit of prayerful meditation.

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 when it is passed later in the service.

*Call to Worship

One: Our God is an awesome God who breathed into emptiness and created all that is.

All: With love and care, God shaped the world in all its diversity with mountains and valleys, rivers and deserts, and people of all colors and sizes.

One: And threading through it all are beautiful dreams of justice, compassion, liberation, and peace.

All: O God, creator of our past, our present, and our future, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on us each moment.

One: Be with us now. Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

All: Lead us in paths of righteousness. Fill our hearts with compassion and a thirst for justice. Teach us to be co-creators, with You, of a world where all belong and share in the abundance you have given us. Praise be to God.

*Hymn #89

“Awake, Awake to Love and Work”

A Prayer for Laborers

One: Loving, Laboring God, on this Sunday we ask your special blessing on all people who labor, either for pay or as volunteers, in jobs or at school, in the workplace or at home, in the U.S. and around the world.

All: We especially pray for your blessings on workers who do not have jobs and for those whose inadequate pay does not allow them to live the full life you intend for each of us.

One: Creator God, help us to build a new world in the midst of the old.

All: A world where all workers are valued.

One: A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in.

All: A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill.

One: A world where those who serve and care for others are, themselves, also served and cared for.

All: We pray for the coming of a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us. We ask these things knowing that you give us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

Reading of Scripture

Romans 12:1-12

Reflections on How My Faith Influences My Work

Greg Clemons, Ruth Howe, JP Morrill

***Hymn #347** “Let us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Sharing our Gifts

Invitation to Share

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication (Spoken in unison)

Dear God, you have offered us a place at the table and you have called us to share without expectation of being repaid. You have called us to make a place for the poor, the outcast and the oppressed. So we ask that you bless these resources so that they might support ministries of

compassion and justice until all of your children have a place at the table. Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to our God.

All: It is good to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is a good and fruitful work to give thanks to you, Almighty God, in all places and at all times. By his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivering us from the bondage of sin and the power of death and forging a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

All: We ask now that you bless us and bless this bread and cup that we might realize your gifts of forgiveness, liberation and newness of Spirit. Amen.

One: On the night of his betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, Jesus took a cup, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The Sharing of Bread and Cup

One: Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ (*at this time people may say the names of those who are in need of prayer*).

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives (*at this time people may lift their joys and celebrations*).

Come for all things are ready. Eat of the bread that is the body of Christ broken in love for you. Drink of the cup that represents the joyous gift of God's eternal

grace and mercy.

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 liquid in the tall cup is wine, the liquid in the short cup is juice.

Congregation Sings as others come forward #784 “Eat this Bread, Drink This Cup”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our sharing together has meant the communion of our souls, and because you have graced us by your presence here, O God, we give you our deep and abiding thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and love of Jesus Christ. Amen

***Hymn #607**

“We Would Be Building”

Benediction

One: Return to your homes, your work, your play, refreshed, renewed, and empowered.

All: We have met the Christ in word and sacrament, in listening and sharing.

One: Gather at other tables with friends and loved ones, knowing that Christ is there as well as here.

All: We welcome the love and acceptance we know here and at other places where we break bread.

One: All our moments and meetings can be sacramental, if we live in awareness of what great gifts our lives and all people’s lives are.

All: We pray that our eyes may be opened and our spirits attuned to live in Christ. Amen.

Please join us in the Friendship Hall for some light refreshments and conversation.

For Today's Service

Speakers are: Greg Clemons, Ruth Howe,
JP Morrill

Greeter: Judy Slater

Communion Prep: Carol Duin

Communion Servers: Mary Hawkins,
Dennis Vanator, John and Dianne Gundlach

Security: Randall Bowman

Childcare/Nursery: Marcella Gonzalez

Deacon of the Month: Carol Duin -
scduin@gmail.com

Alternate Deacon of the Month: Julie
Everett - zowiemom@yahoo.com

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
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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.

Nursery Our nursery is open during worship for babies and children pre-school age and younger. Children and babies may be dropped off by a parent or guardian before worship or after a Time with Children. (You will be asked to sign in and leave a cell phone number). They must be picked up as soon worship ends. They are also welcome to remain with you in the sanctuary.

Faith Formation for Children and Teens On most Sundays of the month (except the first), we invite our children to go to a multi-age class in room E-204 following the Time with Children. Our teen youth meet with Taleese Morrill or volunteer parents in the Youth Tower on those Sundays.

Volunteering and Connecting

Room in The Inn returns to our church on September 25th to October 2nd and our new Inn Keepers, Richard and Ruth Howe will be starting the recruiting process very soon. RITI is a traveling homeless shelter for women until they can find permanent housing. The Innkeepers and Coordinators will need your help to provide meals, transportation and overnight hosting. For more information, please contact Richard and Ruth at rmhhowe@gmail.com and rbhowe54@gmail.com

Iona Group

In June of this year, several members of our church journeyed to Iona, Scotland and we would like to share our experiences with the congregation by leading a Healing Service on World Communion Sunday, October 2nd. The liturgy, the 'laying on of hands' and communion service are based on the worship at the Iona Abbey. On October 30th, following worship, in the Friendship Hall the Iona pilgrims will share a DVD chronicling our experience on the Isle along with personal reflections. During the month of December, the pilgrims will exhibit their Iona art work, including paintings, drawings, and photographs.

Retreat Name Badges and Lanyards: Do you have your name badges and lanyards from the All Church Retreat? Could you remember to bring them to the church so we may recycle them for next year? Thank you for helping me to be a good steward of our budget.

Want us to participate in Gay Pride this year? October 1 is the Asheville Gay Pride Celebration and we have participated in the past except for last year when we had monsoon weather. The staff is asking: Is this an event in which we should participate and if so, **are you willing to be a volunteer** to help the church with setting up our booth, staffing the booth for a 2-3 hour shift and helping to break our booth down? **If you have any questions or would like to help to make this happen**, contact Yolanda at ministry@uccasheville.com or at the church office, 828-252-8729. If there is not enough interest, then we will not participate and continue to do the work that we have been doing on social justice issues supporting our brothers and sisters that are facing the oppression and disenfranchisement of being a part of the LGBTQ Community.

Sponsoring Immigrants: Jim and Ann Beggs are sponsoring the family of immigrant Basmer Alkohianie from Yemen. They have had a very positive experience. He is educated as a civil engineer and is working on his English. There are 50 refugees from the Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus that are arriving in Asheville by September 27. They all need a friend that will help them adjust. In you are interested, please phone: Carol Duin (828) 337-5228 Please read the details in the newsletter.

Regathering and Friendship Hall Dedication: September 11th is the Re-Gathering Sunday AND the dedication of the Friendship Hall with special liturgy in the service as well as an amped up Friendship Time. For this Friendship Time we are asking you to bring a heavy appetizer dish for this celebration. There will also be a brief presentation about the Capital Campaign from Spence. If you have questions contact Yolanda at ministry@uccasheville.com or at the church office, 828-279-4899.

Youth Ministry Grill Out: A fall kick off and grill out will be held at the home of our Youth Leaders, JP and Taleese Morrill, 11 Ryan Lane in Weaverville at 4:00PM. Proteins, both Vegetarian and Vegan will be provided as well as fixings and beverages. Please bring sides and dessert. This is for parents and children of all ages that are a part of our community. Betty Dillashaw will be there to talk about the music ministry and chime choir as well. Let's get acquainted with each other as well as the schedule of events for the coming year. For more information and directions contact Taleese at 707-0163.

Children and Youth Chime Choirs - yes, hopefully more than one! - will begin soon after September 11th. Preliminary plans are to have three different meeting times for chime choirs: Sundays, 9:15 am; Sundays, 12:15 pm; Wednesdays, 4:30 pm. All who want this Christian music education programming to succeed are encouraged to invite parents to contact Betty Dillashaw (bettydtleaf@gmail.com OR 336-260-0836) to register their children for one of these meeting times. A successful beginning for this programming will be much easier with the help of our "village" at FCUCC!

Upcoming Faith Formation Classes

Prerequisite to A Sacred Conversation: "The Good Word: You Say You Want a Revolution?" with Rev. Aubra Love. Each week's exploration is based on the Lectionary texts for that Sunday. In this three-week faith based exploration into community building, we will awarely notice any feelings of powerlessness, despair, isolation and indifference. Ultimately, we will name/own our feelings, learn how to facilitate our own healing processes and how to build supportive relationships. Some time will be devoted to systemic social change and the role of spirituality in personal wellness and community development. This lecture series will give an insight to the work that Aubra has been doing through much of her career as a National Trainer, Presenter and Advocate. **Classes will be on September 25th, October 2nd, October 9th** and will run for three consecutive weeks and will be held in **Room 107 starting at 9:00 am.**

Reflection of Prayer and Healing: On the Sundays of **September 11th and 18th**, Joyce Rhymer and Dorri Sherrill invite you to a time of discussion and reflection on prayer and healing. We will meet from **9:15-10:15 AM in Room 101**. Using thought-provoking quotes and questions, we will consider the ways in which our understandings of prayer and healing shape our experiences of the Holy. We hope these discussions will

stir and prepare us - body, mind, and spirit - as we anticipate the Healing and Communion Service to be held on Sunday, October 2. Please come!

Visitor Orientation and New Member Classes: Are you interested in becoming a member of FCUCC or just learning more about our congregation? Please plan to attend the **Visitor Orientation on September 25th after worship** in E-107. **New Member classes** will be held on **October 2nd, 9th, 16th at 9 am** in E-103.



Jules Bastien-Lepage "The Wood Gathering"

Located at 20 Oak Street Asheville, NC 28801

Please send all mail to PO Box 3211 Asheville, NC 28802.

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www.facebook.com/FCUCC