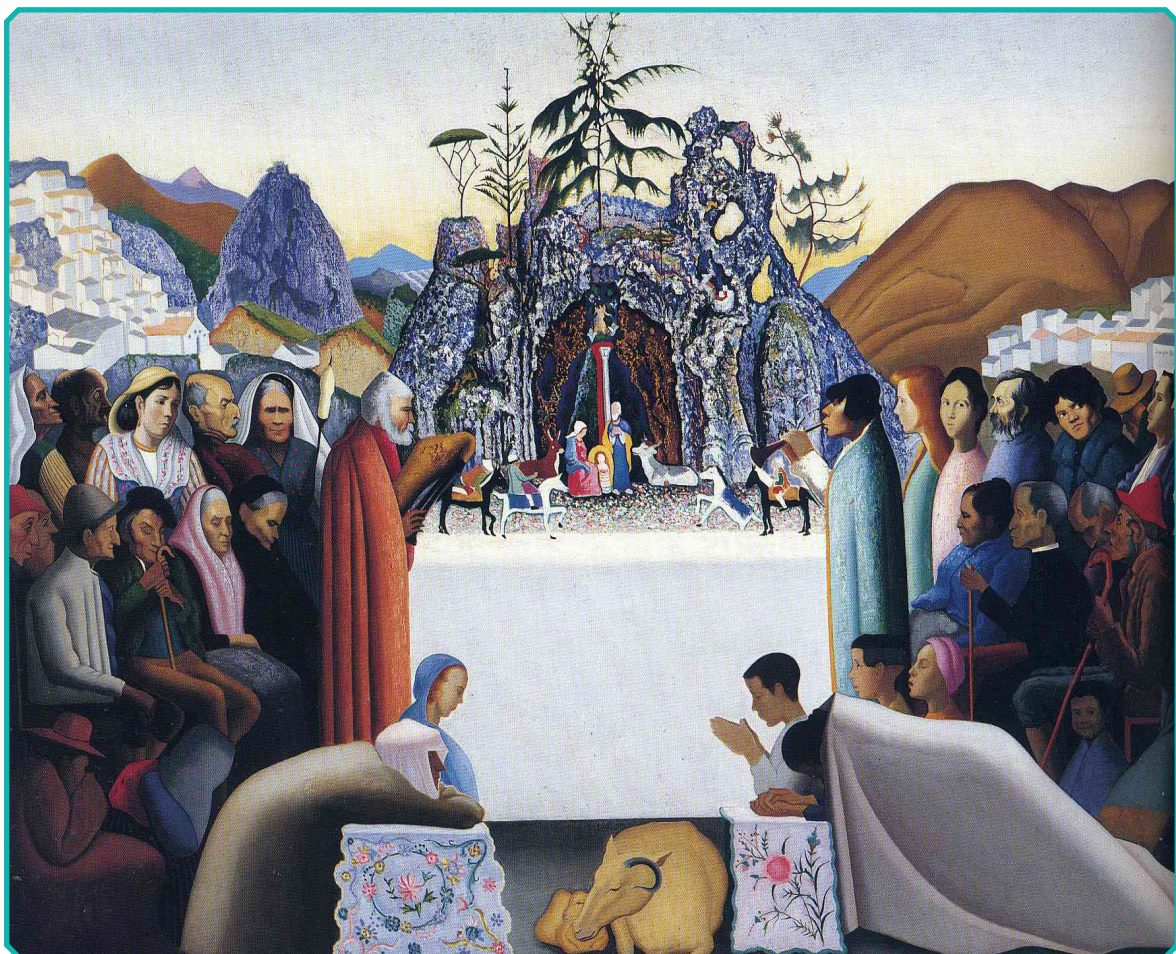


UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL FESTIVAL WORSHIP



APRIL 21, 2024

*Please stand, as able

Bold text indicates congregational response or singing.

INVITATION

United Voices of Praise

9:15 a.m.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Setting by Dan Miller

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

won't you celebrate with me

Lucille Clifton

won't you celebrate with me
what i have shaped into
a kind of life? i had no model.
born in babylon
both nonwhite and woman
what did i see to be except myself?
i made it up
here on this bridge between
starshine and clay,
my one hand holding tight
my other hand; come celebrate
with me that everyday
something has tried to kill me
and has failed.

—From the UCC Collection, “Voices of People of African Descent”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever Living and Always Giving, Most Holy and Most High God of Heaven and Maker of all Things on Earth, we celebrate the Good News of the Easter season: that death has no claim on us when we are in your presence. For life persisting when threatened with danger, we thank you. For life renewing when we felt all was lost, we thank you. For life arising, in great mysteries and in marvels of your grace, we thank you. Grant that our hearts may be guided by faithfulness and hope, and that we may grow to trust in the promise of Christ Jesus, the life that abides in the covenant you have made with your creation. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

For if you all truly reform your ways and your doings, if you all truly do what is just between one person and another, if you all do not oppress the immigrant, the orphan, the widow, or pour out innocent blood in this place, and if after other gods you all do not go to your own harm, then I will dwell with you all in this place, in the land that I gave to your mothers and fathers from forever and to eternity.

—Jeremiah 7:5-7

*HYMN OF PRAISE 303

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

DARWALL'S 148TH

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 6:1-7

A Womens Lectionary for the Whole Church

Now during those days the disciples, women and men, were multiplying and the Greek [followers] grumbled against the Hebrew [followers] because their widows were being neglected in the daily ministry [to the poor]. And the twelve called together the whole multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to do table work. Select therefore [sisters and] brothers from among yourselves seven men of whom there is good testimony, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we can put in charge of this duty. Now we, in prayer and the ministry of the word, will continue." And their statement pleased the whole multitude and they selected Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a convert to Judaism from Antioch. These stood before the apostles and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God spread and the number of the disciples, women and men, multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great crowd of the priests became obedient to the faith.

John 14:18-24

A Womens Lectionary for the Whole Church

[Jesus said,] "I shall not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you all. Yet, in a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live you all also shall live. On that day you all will know that I am in my Abba, and you all in me, and I in you all. The one who has my commandments and keep them is the one who loves me and the one who loves me will be loved by my Abba; I shall love that person and reveal myself to them." Judas (not Iscariot) said to Jesus, "Rabbi, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "The one who loves me will keep my word and my Abba will love that person and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine rather, it is from the Creator who sent me."

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Where Children Belong

RITCHIE



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the wor-ship-ing throng.



Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be-long.

SERMON

Rev. Cameron Barr

*HYMN OF THE DAY 249

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

PEACE MY FRIENDS

*CALL TO SHARING

ANTHEM

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Christ all crea-tures here be-
low; O, praise God! Al-le - lu - ia! Praise Ho-ly Spi-rit, Com-for-
ter; One, God, Tri-une whom we a - dore, O, praise God! O,
praise God! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Together we lift our voices in thanksgiving and praise:

*SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

From *Festival Eucharist*

Craig Phillips

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The first staff is labeled 'Organ' and the second 'Congregation'. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, — heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. — Ho - san - na in — the high-est. — Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. — Ho - san - na in the high-est. —' The organ part consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the congregation part is a simple melody with some rests.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please come forward to receive the bread and cup. We offer a gluten-free option in the basket with purple linens and serve only non-alcoholic grape juice. Raise your hand if you would like a pastor to bring the elements to you. Communion cups may be left in the openings on the back of the pews. Healing prayer is offered in the back of the sanctuary during Communion.

*COMMUNION HYMN 425

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN OF BLESSING 28

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Fugue in G Minor BWV578

J.S. Bach

NEW RACIAL JUSTICE COVENANT REVIEW

Sunday, April 28 | Fellowship Hall
Two options: 11:00 a.m. or 12:15 p.m.



At both meetings, we will:

- Review the final draft of our new Racial Justice Covenant, which incorporates feedback received from the congregation in January
- Discuss and build upon a report of action items from UCCH's boards and committees outlining how we will bring the Racial Justice Covenant to life

Interested in joining United Church as a member, or just in learning more about this congregation or denomination?



RSVP here:



YARD SALE RESULTS:

\$8,000 raised for Language Learning Ministry



RESULTADOS DE LA VENTA DE PATIO:

\$8,000 recaudados para Ministerio de Aprendizaje de Idiomas

Obrigada Thank You! Danke sehr Gracias

GRATITUDE CORNER

I am in treatment for a blood cancer which is under control but for which there is no cure. Since 2012 my care team has been a comfort and haven for me. With them and precious family in mind I say thank you.

—Andre Novak

We hope you'll read this brief devotion as an invitation to name your gratitude. If you can name something about our church community that makes you want to give thanks and sing in less than 200 words, we'd love to print it here. Send your submission to mmee@unitedchurch.org.

GROWING STARTS AT UCP: PLANT PICK-UP

Today between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

After a few months of growth, UCP is ready to send off all the tomato, herb, flower, and pepper plants to their new homes! If you made a plant order in support of this fundraiser, please come by the lawn today between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. to pick up your plants.

COMMUNITY FORUM SERIES: GET OUTSIDE!

Today, April 21, after Festival Worship - Fellowship Hall

Ashlie Thomas, known as the Mocha Gardener, will lead a session on Gardening and Wellness. Ashlie is an author, food security and home gardening advocate. She began her gardening journey with her husband on a one-acre North Carolina homestead and through this, she became more conscientious of local food systems and connections to human health.

UCCH 101

Sunday, April 28 at 12:30 p.m. in the church library

Interested in joining UCCH as a member, or just in learning more about this congregation? Join this casual information session! Lunch will be provided; please let us know if you need Spanish interpretation or childcare. RSVP by 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 25 so we can plan for food, childcare, & interpretation. RSVP here: forms.gle/8V8yt1b2Fz3ULIdg7 (also linked in our emails).

2 ROOMS AVAILABLE AT MONTREAT COTTAGE

A small group from United Church will be attending week 2 of this year's Montreat worship and music conference, which is sponsored by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. There are 2 more rooms available in our group's cottage. If you'd like to spend a week in the beautiful town of Montreat and possibly attend the conference as well, contact Jenny Anderson (janderson@unitedchurch.org).

REVISED RACIAL JUSTICE COVENANT: WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Sunday, April 28: 11:00 a.m. or 12:15 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

On April 28 a choice of two sessions will be offered at 11:00 and 12:15 in the Fellowship Hall. We will share the final draft of our new Racial Justice Covenant, which incorporates the feedback received from the congregation in the January workshops. The new covenant will be presented for a final vote at the June congregational meeting. On April 28 we will also share a report with sample action items from every board and committee of the church, outlining how each group plans to make the Racial Justice Covenant a living document. Everyone is invited to share additional ideas on how to bring this covenant to life by taking action!

PARTNERS DEMANDING PALESTINIAN JUSTICE (PDPJ) INTEREST MEETING

Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Room 229

The catastrophe in Gaza continues to worsen by the hour, with more than 34,000 Palestinian civilians killed, 77,000 injured and 2/3 of homes destroyed by almost constant Israeli bombing and shelling. Gaza is on the brink of famine due to lack of food and water. Ted & Sharon Shohfi have been advocating, as members of various groups, for 25 years for justice for the Palestinian people. They confirm that as bad as the situation has been for the Palestinians living under colonization, occupation, and apartheid for more than 75 years, the current relentless slaughter of Palestinians is orders of magnitude worse than ever before. In order to intentionally provide for UCCH members to advocate for justice in Palestine, BJOS has approved the formulation of a new UCCH committee: Partners Demanding Palestinian Justice (PDPJ). If you are interested in joining, or at least in finding out more about it, you are invited to attend a PDPJ committee interest meeting on Wed., April 24, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 229. We will discuss the committee's purpose and programs and opportunities for specific involvement opportunities. There's no age limit and we welcome and encourage all from young adults to seniors to be a vital part of this urgent advocacy. RSVP and/or request additional information by emailing or calling Ted Shohfi (t.j.shohfi.2@gmail.com (9195375554)) or Sharon Shohfi (ts.shohfi@gmail.com (9192602306)).

MEET & GREET WITH YOUTH MINISTER JORDAN

Families & youth of the church are invited to the Youth Room to hang out and meet Jordan Haywood, our new Minister to Youth & Families. Please come by during the 11:00 hour, after Festival Worship. This is an ongoing invitation--Jordan will be in the Youth Room weekly for unstructured fellowship time together as he works on building up youth program plans.

FRIDAY MORNING YOGA CLASS

Fridays at 9 a.m. in the Assembly Hall

All levels welcome! Contact Melanie Joiner (melanie.spence@gmail.com) for more info.

BLACK LIVES MATTER VIGILS

Fridays at 4 p.m. on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

All are welcome! To join the email list, please contact Natalie Boorman (hickorygroveart@mindspring.com).

FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

A volunteer, Nancy Siebens, will be in the library immediately following the 9:45 service, to assist you in finding library materials pertinent to today's readings or other topics.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Learn more about worship on the "Welcome to United Church" card in your pew.

SERVICE NOTES

MUSICIANS: United Voices of Praise, Chancel Choir

GREETERS: Alex Chrisco, Seth Murray

READER: Jeff Hall

COMMUNION VOLUNTEER: Jan Thornton-Irvine

LIVESTREAM: Brian Moore

SOUNDBOARD: Peter Schay

COFFEE HOST: Janet Flowers

COVER ART: *Men, women and crian3as around the world united around Jesus* Joseph Stella, 1877-1946.

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UNITED CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR: Rev. Cameron Barr

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY &

BELONGING: Caleb Wolf

MINISTER TO CHILDREN: Anitra Grove

MINISTER TO YOUTH & FAMILIES: Jordan Haywood

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Jennifer Anderson

ORGANIST: Alan Davis

ADJUNCT MUSIC STAFF: Charles Bradshaw (United Voices of Praise Director), Nan de Andrade (Handbell Director), & Bianca Muñoz (La Mesa Music Director)

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Kati Ruark

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: Marisa Mee

BUSINESS MANAGER: Duane Gilbert

SEXTON: Bruce Thomas

KITCHEN STEWARDS: Nubia Rivero Bello, Hser Nay Htoo, & Andreina Galindez

NURSERY DIRECTOR: Alison Robertson

NURSERY ASSISTANTS: Alex Tanner, Colin Tanner, Harper Gray, Brooke Reynolds, Kallista Mela, Mimi Reeves, & Elizabeth Hall

Scripture translations are from *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church (Year B)*, Wilda C. Gafney (2023). Worship is organized around readings from the Bible, so the texts we choose have a powerful role in shaping our faith. We believe that all of God's people should see themselves reflected in the stories read in worship. *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* is a resource that helps us choose stories from the canon of Christian scripture that include women and children at the center of the narrative. When we make a special effort to attend to the voices of women in scripture, we find ourselves also reflecting on other communities marginalized in the Christian tradition: people of color, queer and nonbinary people, immigrants, other communities whose presence in God's family go unnoticed. Wilda Gafney's translations of the text expand our imagination for God, challenging us to relate to a God who is both gendered by history and beyond our understanding of gender. Our journey with the Women's Lectionary reflects our racial equity commitments and our desire to welcome all of our neighbors into the worship of She Who Speaks Life.

Your support of UCCH makes our worship and ministry possible.

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919-942-3540

A PLACE of BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN