

## REFLECTING UPON OUR WORK FOR THE KINGDOM

Bishop Ken Untner, in Memory of Archbishop Oscar Romero

It helps to now and then step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in knowing this.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

**We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.**

## PRAYING FOR OURSELVES, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE WORLD

REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

LIFTING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER

PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED (debts and debtors)

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Here I Am, Lord* Schutte

## READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Mark 4; 30-32 and Romans 12: 9-18

REFLECTING

Rev. Dr. Liz Nash

Each time we look upon the poor, on the farmworkers who harvest the coffee, the sugarcane, the cotton...remember, there is the face of Christ.

Archbishop Oscar Romero

Those who, in the biblical phrase, would save their lives—that is, those who want to get along, who don't want commitments, who don't want to get into problems, who want to stay outside of a situation that demands the involvement of all of us—they will lose their lives. What a terrible thing to have lived quite comfortably, with no suffering, not getting involved in problems, quite tranquil, quite settled, with good connections politically, economically, socially—lacking nothing, having everything. To what good? They will lose their lives.

Archbishop Oscar Romero

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Andante*

*C.P.E. Bach*

\*PRAISING GOD

Tune: *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen

\*DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS TO GOD

## DEPARTING TO PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

\*SINGING A HYMN *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant* *Black Hymnal* 539

\*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING SONG *We Are Marching in the Light of God* *Black Hymnal* 526

\*PARTING WITH A SONG *Community of Christ*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **Adult Christian Education** group is studying the relationship between racism and our nation's criminal justice system. A listing of the readings for this study can be found at our church web site under the Ministry and Adult Ed links.

The **Micah 6 Sunday Drop-In Meal** preparers and servers will **meet today** after worship to discuss whether to extend our commitment to prepare and serve meals throughout 2018 and into 2019.

On Sunday, **April 29**, we'll gather for an **after-worship discussion** to answer Jesus' question to his disciples: **"Who do you say that I am?"**

Our **Talent Show** will be **Friday, May 4**. Soup serving begins at **6 pm**, and the show begins as soon as we finish the soup. We'll accept donations for a worthy cause and every participant will receive an award. Nodie has her clipboard and is signing up the acts!

We'll be celebrating **Youth Sunday** on Sunday, **May 6**, along with our partner churches, University Baptist Church and University Christian Church. **We will not have a service here on May 6. We will join UBC and UCC for a joint service at University Christian Church at 10:50 am (2007 University Ave).**

The **Dialogue Institute of Austin** has invited our church to participate in an **Iftar Dinner** with our Muslim sisters and brothers as they observe Ramadan. We will gather with them at the **Raindrop Turkish House** on 12400 Amherst Drive at **8 pm** on **Tuesday, May 22**.

The **South Central Conference Annual Meeting** will be held from **Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2**, at Camp Allen in Navasota, TX. The theme is: Gospel Bound. To register, go to <https://sccucc.org/annual-meeting/>

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Counc, Thur, April 26, 7:15 pm, at the Bodman's

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Don and Sharon Brown  
Fellowship Host The Deacons

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The **Adult Christian Education Group** meets Sundays at 10:00 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**Middle School and High School Students** remain in the service the first Sunday of each month; other Sundays their Sunday School begins after the Choral Anthem.

**Elementary Sunday School** is held during the 11:00 am service, immediately following "Time With Children." The children will be escorted from the Sanctuary to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Christian Education room, and can be picked up from there after the service.

**Infant and Toddler Care** is available throughout the service in the Nursery.

Children's bulletins and crayons are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, UCC

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Rev. Thomas J VandeStadt	Pastor
Nodie Murphy	Music Director
Rev. Amelia Fulbright	Labyrinth Student Ministry
Karen White	Piano
Amy Harris	Violin
Robin Rosson	Cello
Amy Rivera	Sunday School Teacher
Sam Clubb	Nursery Attendant
Donna Cravens	Office Manager
Victor Cardenas	Custodian

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

an Open and Affirming Church  
of The United Church of Christ

**April 22, 2018**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**



## GATHERING

Lord, I give myself to you. I trust you God...

Teach me how to live, Lord, show me the way.

Steer me toward your truth, you, my saving God,  
you, my constant hope.

Psalm 25: 1; 4-5

## WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

## SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Berceuse*

Ilijinsky

## \*GATHERING AS CHRIST'S DISCIPLES

Lord, I give myself to you. I trust you God.

Teach me how to live, Lord, show me the way.

*Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God;  
let justice flow like a mighty river.*

*Love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind,  
and love your neighbor as yourself.*

*Become like a child,*

*and recognize the least among you as the greatest.*

Yes, this is the way of the Lord, the way revealed by the Law,  
proclaimed by the prophets, fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

*We gather as Christ's people, to practice together God's way,  
guided by Christ's words, deeds, and living spirit.*

## \*SINGING A HYMN. *You Are Salt for the Earth*

Black Hymnal 181