

OFFERING GOD OUR WHOLE-HEARTED THANKS

I will give thanks to God with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Psalm 111: 1

I begin by giving thanks for my heart,
the organ that pumps blood through my body,
day and night, to keep me pulsing with life,
and the part of me in which I experience love, passion and desire,
the part of me that harbors deep joy and profound sadness,
the part of me that longs for holy union with God and God's creation.

And now, with my heart,
with my *whole* heart,
and in holy union with all who gather as this congregation,
I thank God for all that sustains my heart, my life and this congregation.

I give thanks for this creation in which I was born,
and I pray that I may love all that God loves,
with every beat of my heart,
and that my love, like Christ's love,
may help to liberate, heal and reconcile
whatever suffering in this world my heart touches.

In the name of Christ, my heart prays. Amen.

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE WORLD

REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

In silence and stillness, reflect on who has arrived for worship this morning.
What thoughts and feelings, joys and concerns, have you brought with you?

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

If the Spirit is moving you to share a thought or feeling, joy or concern,
please do so now, so we may lift it together in prayer.

LIFTING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER

PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED

(debts and debtors)

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Use Me, Lord*

Smith

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Ezekiel 34: 1-6 and 17-24

REFLECTING

The awareness of a deeper unity connecting us lies at the heart of many spiritual traditions; insights from modern science point in a similar direction. We live at a time when a new view of reality is emerging, where spiritual insight and scientific discovery both contribute to our understanding of ourselves as intimately interwoven with our world. Joanna Macy

The task of prophetic ministry is to nurture, nourish, and evoke a consciousness and perception alternative to the consciousness and perception of the dominant culture around us. Thus I suggest that prophetic ministry has to do not primarily with addressing specific public crises but with addressing the dominant crisis that is enduring and resilient, or having our alternative vocation co-opted and domesticated. It may be, of course, that this enduring crisis manifests itself in any given time around concrete issues, but it concerns the enduring crisis that runs from concrete issue to concrete issue. Walter Bruggemann

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio "Allegro assai" from *Trio VI*

Mozart

*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 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* Black Hymnal 403

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

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

*PARTING WITH A SONG *There's a Spirit in the Air*

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.

We will gather today 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/>

If you would like to **read the scripture lesson** during worship, please sign up on the orange sheet in Fellowship Hall.

The **rainbow stole** on the pulpit is in support of the struggle of all **LGBTQ** people for equity and justice, and for a life that is free from prejudice, intimidation, and violence.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons, Tue, May 1, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's
Trustees, Thu, May 3, 7:15 pm, at Reuel Nash's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Jaime Hadley and Bill Beardall
Scripture Reader Sarah Darter
Fellowship Host The Deacons

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The **Adult Christian Education Group** meets Sundays at 10:00 am on the 2nd 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 2nd 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
Jonathan Geer	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 29, 2018
The Fifth Sunday of Easter



GATHERING

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Adagio cantabile*

Haydn

***GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Come sisters, come brothers!

Come with love in your heart,

love for God, your neighbor, yourself.

Come with a thirst for justice,

justice for the oppressed, the exploited, the silenced.

Come with a peaceful spirit,

kind and compassionate, discerning and wise.

We have come!

With love in our hearts, a thirst for justice, peaceful spirits.

We have come!

To be together, sing together, pray together.

We have come!

To be exactly who we are with one another,

to open our hearts to one another,

to laugh and cry with one another,

and to minister in Christ-like ways to one another,

and to our world with one another.

***SINGING A HYMN** *Now Let Us All, in Hymns of Praise*

Black Hymnal 529