

## LIGHTING OUR ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

As we light the Advent candle of peace, we pray for peace  
within and between all families,  
within and between all faiths,  
within and between all nations.

*We pray that people from different ethnicities,  
people with different skin color,  
people with different sexual orientations,  
may respect their differences and live together in peace.  
We pray that people who have too much and people who have too little,  
people separated by distrust, anger, and resentment,  
people seeking to hurt or kill one another,  
may be reconciled by justice, compassion and forgiveness.  
In Christ's name we pray, and by his spirit we sing....*

### \*SINGING LIKE ANGELS

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;  
new life, new *peace*, the Child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing,  
“Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

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

### REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

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.

### SHARING FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR LIVES

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 HEARTS IN PRAYER AND PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  
Arr. Dengler

## READING AND REFLECTING

### READING FROM THE BIBLE

Isaiah 11: 1-9 and Luke 1: 39-45

### REFLECTING

In the final chapter of Wendell Berry's novel *Jayber Crow*, rapacious Troy Chatham razes the last grove of trees on his dead father-in-law's farmland. Having exhausted the land by his appetite for profit and growth, Troy tries staving off bankruptcy with the one remaining source of income: logs... To Troy, the trees were merchandise—logs to be felled and hauled away to be sold. To Jayber, the trees represented not trunks and branches to be bundled for market but the stability of generations. They were a community's self-recognition, landmarks by which one knew to find his way. Trees provided roots of memory driven deep in the soil of years.

Jen Pollack Michael

Slowly, slowly, they return  
To the small woodland let alone:  
Great trees, outspreading and upright,  
Apostles of the living light.

Wendell Berry

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

### OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Improvisation on Creator of the Stars of Night*

### \*PRAISING GOD

tune *Old Hundreth*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

### \*DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS TO GOD

## DEPARTING TO PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

\*SINGING A HYMN *Mary, Woman of Promise* Black Hymnal 123

### \*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

### \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING SONG *Dona Nobis Pacem* Insert

\*PARTING WITH A SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

In response to the rise of Islamophobia in our nation, our church is participating in the **Interfaith Action for Human Rights** banner project by hanging a banner that says, "We Stand With Our Muslim Neighbors."

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.

The **Sunday Morning Adult Christian Ed. Group** is reading and discussing a variety of pieces about race, criminal justice, and mass incarceration. All are welcome.

Our **Annual Christmas Candlelight Service and Party** will be held on **Sunday, December 17, 7 pm, at church**. The party following the service is potluck, so bring your favorite Christmas cookies, cheeseball, frosted delight, whipped topping, or delectable treat. If you can't bring something, come anyway(!). If you can, add it to the spread.

We will once again celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with our **Christmas Open Door Dinner on Christmas day**. A brief service at 12:00 noon will be followed by a full-course Christmas dinner at 12:30.

The **Vision Team** will be hosting a **meeting after church** on **Sunday, January 7**, to offer an **interim report** on the results from the house meetings on spirituality and mission. The house meetings for the third round of the process, dealing with our church's resources for ministry, will be held January 16-21.

If you would like to do **Read from the Bible** during worship, please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Tom at [revtomv@swbell.net](mailto:revtomv@swbell.net). And if you would like to submit a **liturgy** or **prayer** for use during worship, please contact Tom.

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons, Tue, Jan 2, 7:15pm, Joy Penticuff's  
Trustees, Wed, Jan 3, 7:15 pm, Gail Christeson's  
Coord Council, Tue, Jan 9, 6:30 pm, John Goff's

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers	Whit and Betty Bodmanl
Scripture Readers	Faye and Andy Dierksen
Fellowship Hosts	Board of 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. Child care begins at 9:15 am for the parents of children attending choir practice or the Adult Christian Education Group.

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
Tony Rogers	Cello
Amy Rivera	Sunday School Teacher
Sam Clubb	Nursery Attendant
Kathy Whatley	Office Manager Emrilita
Victor Cardenas	Custodian

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

an Open and Affirming Church  
of The United Church of Christ

**December 10, 2017**

**Third Sunday of Advent: Peace**



## GATHERING

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so also must you forgive. Above all, clothe yourself with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

Colossians 3: 12-15

## WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

## SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Sheep May Safely Graze*

Bach

**\*GATHERING WITH SONG** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* Insert

## \*GATHERING AS CHRIST'S DISCIPLES

Christ is our Prince, and our Prince is attired  
not in garments of velvet and silk,  
nor adorned with silver and gold.

Our Prince clothes himself with compassion and kindness,  
humility and meekness, patience and forgiveness.

His clothing is stitched together with love,  
the thread that holds us together in peace.

*Our Prince is the Prince of Peace. He reigns not in a castle  
defended by sword and shield, nor from a throne high and mighty.  
Our Prince reigns in our hearts, clothes us in his attire,  
and holds us together in peaceful harmony with his love.*

**\*SINGING A HYMN** *Let There Be Light*

Black Hymnal 589