

GATHERING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

RECEIVING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Preghiera*

Rachmaninoff/Kreisler

GATHERING WITH SONG *Come and Fill*

Taize #28

GATHERING WITH PRAYER

May our hearts be open,

as we gather as the church of Jesus Christ.

May our hearts be grateful,

as we give thanks for the gift of life.

May our hearts be contrite,

as we sincerely confess our sin.

May our hearts be transformed,

as we accept Christ's mercy and forgiveness.

May our hearts be bold,

as we minister in Christ's name.

*SINGING A HYMN *You Are Salt for the Earth*

Black Hymnal 181

CONFESSING OUR SIN

As we begin our journey through Lent,

may we practice healthy and wholesome confession,

confession based on love and wisdom, mercy and compassion,

confession that opens us to healing and reconciliation,

both within ourselves, and between ourselves and others.

May we look at our lives and acknowledge our imperfect human condition,

our fears and anxieties, our shortcomings and mistakes,

the hurtful words we've spoken, the damaging things we've done.

May we not become mired in unhealthy judgment and debasing shame,

but simply see who we are and how we are,

what we've said and what we've done,

and confess this to ourselves and to God,

trusting in God's grace and life-transforming love.

REFLECTING IN SILENCE

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

READING, REFLECTING, AND PRAYING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Micah 6: 6-8 and Mark 1: 9-15

REFLECTING

Kathleen Davis and Joy Penticuff, Austin Interfaith

SHARING WITH ONE ANOTHER

PRAYING WITH ONE ANOTHER

PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED

(debts and debtors)

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Namaste*

Hayes

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Moderato*

Wagner

*PRAISING GOD

tune: Old Hundredth

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 *What Does the Lord Require of You?*

Sing all three verses consecutively, then as a canon

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *This Is My Song*

Black Hymnal 591

*PARTING WITH A SONG *Let Justice Flow Like Streams*

Look upon me, have mercy upon me, O Source of my liberation...

Let me look to another's sorrow, share another's injustice, bear another's

burdens, and in the process, lose my own. Teach me to care and not to

care, bid my fear be still, and let all my insecurity lose itself in your will.

Miriam Theresa Winter

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.

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 **Vision Team** is hosting a **meeting today** after worship to give a report on the findings from the first two House Meetings on spirituality and mission

All Saints Episcopal is hosting an **Austin Interfaith Civic Academy on Code Next**, today, at 2:30 pm.

The Deacons would like to contribute on behalf of our church to the **Dr. Joseph T McMillan and Family Endowed Scholarship Fund at Huston-Tillotson University** as a way to honor Joe McMillan. If you'd like to contribute to the Deacons' Remembrance Fund, please submit a check and write Deacons' Remembrance Fund in the memo line.

There will be a **brief meeting** after worship next Sunday, **February 25**, to plan the dinner we'll be preparing for the **Micah 6 Drop-In Center on March 11**. We'll meet in the Library.

"Notes to myself on being a disciple." Inspired by painter Richard Diebenkorn's "Notes to myself on beginning a painting," we'll reflect on what we need to remember to live as a disciple of Christ, as we define what that means for us. This will be a fun exercise in which we identify what's most important to us, and a good way to get to know one another better. If you want to refresh your memory on Diebenkorn's list and how it may relate to discipleship, the sermon "Notes to Myself on Being a Disciple" is on our website. We'll meet next Sunday, **February 25**, after worship.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Council, Tue, Feb 27, 7:15 pm

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Don and Sharon Brown
Fellowship Host 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 "Time With Children."

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

408 West 23rd Street (512) 472-2370 office

Austin, TX 78705-5214

<http://congregationalchurchofaustin.org>

ucausti@swbell.net

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
Donna Cravens	Office Manager
Victor Cardenas	Custodian

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

an Open and Affirming Church
of The United Church of Christ

February 18, 2018

The First Sunday of Lent



"THE FURNACE OF PRAYER... THE FIRE OF MY DEVOTION."

I lift up my heart to you, Beloved
in this season of Lent
that gently sweeps across
my sluggish and sleeping heart,
awakening me
to a deeper love for you.

May the wind of the Spirit
that drove Jesus into the desert,
into the furnace of prayer,
also drive me with a passion
during this Lenten season
to enkindle the fire of my devotion
in the desert of Lenten love.

Birds above, on migratory wings,
signal me to an inner migration,
a message that draws me homeward bound
on Spirit's wings
to the heart of my Beloved.

May I earnestly use this Lenten season
to answer an inner urge
to return.

Edward Hays