

PRAYING TO EMBODY CHRIST'S SPIRIT IN THE WORLD

The church exists to set up in the world a new sign which is radically dissimilar to the world's own manner and which contradicts it in a way which is full of promise.

Karl Barth

As we gather as the church, we confess the ways that our lives,
both individually and as a church, mirror the ways of the world in which we live.
We confess that our culture is engrained in our consciousness,
and that our daily lives are deeply integrated into ways of living that contradict
Christ's vision of God's reign.

In confessing, we seek forgiveness. In seeking forgiveness, we seek new life.
In seeking new life, we seek to open our hearts, minds, and wills
to the living Spirit of Christ.

*And so we pray: living Christ, offer us yet again a vision of God's reign,
and embolden us to be living signs of your vision.*

*By your Spirit, may our minds be more radically discerning,
our hearts more loving and courageous,
and our wills more willing to surrender to God
in ways that contradict the world.*

*With you, in you, by you, may we embody your Spirit,
your Spirit that liberates, heals, and reconciles,
your Spirit that offers the world the promise of peace. 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 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 JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER

PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED (debts and debtors)

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Young

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

John 1: 35-51

REFLECTING

1. Attempt what is not certain. Certainty may or may not come later.
It may then be a valuable delusion.
2. The pretty, initial position which falls short of completeness is not to be valued—except as a stimulus for further moves.
3. Do search. But in order to find other than what is searched for.
4. Use and respond to the initial fresh qualities but consider them absolutely expendable.
5. Don't "discover" a subject of any kind.
6. Somehow don't be bored but if you must, use it in action. Use its destructive potential.
7. Mistakes can't be erased but they move you from your present position.
8. Keep thinking about Pollyanna.
9. Tolerate chaos.
10. Be careful, but only in a perverse way.

Richard Diebenkorn

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Dancing Doll*

Kreisler

*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 *I Am the Light of the World* Black Hymnal 584

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* Black Hymnal 76

*PARTING WITH A SONG *Many Are the Lightbeams*

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.

Today, after worship, the Deacons will host an **orientation** for people who're new to our church. This is a good way to learn more about our church and denomination.

We will remember and honor the life of **Dr. Joe McMillan** during our Sunday worship service on **Sunday, January 21**. During the service, you'll have the opportunity to say a few words to remember and honor Joe's life and ministry with us.

Our church's **Annual Meeting** will take place after worship on **Sunday, January 28, 2017**. We will review our 2017 ministry, look ahead to 2018, and pass our budget for 2018.

We will host an **interfaith dialogue** with the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest on the evening of **Thursday, February 15**. The question to be discussed: Why does God allow violence?

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. And if you would like to submit a **liturgy or prayer** for use during worship, please contact Tom.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons, Wed, Jan 17, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Gail Christeson and John Goff
Scripture Reader Rene Slataper
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
Tony Rogers	Cello
Amy Rivera	Sunday School Teacher
Sam Clubb	Nursery Attendant
Kathy Whatley	Office Manager Emerita
Victor Cardenas	Custodian

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

an Open and Affirming Church
of The United Church of Christ

January 14, 2018
The Season of Epiphany



GATHERING

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "what are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see..." The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." John 1:38-39; 43

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Beau Soir*

Debussy

*GATHERING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

What are you looking for? Do you really know?
Beware! If you think you know, you may miss something.
something of far greater significance.

Looking for the messiah, don't miss the messiah,
the bearer of God's light right before you.

Beware! Don't let what you're looking for render you blind
to what is already here, waiting for you to see it.

*May our eyes be open. Truly open. Unclouded by our own
assumptions, freed from our habitual points of view,
may the bearer of God's light in our midst illuminate
all that is within us, around us, and before us.*

*Seeing more clearly, seeing in new ways, may we follow Christ down
paths previously unnoticed, into futures never before imagined.*

***SINGING A HYMN** *Arise, Your Light Is Come*

Black Hymnal 164