

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Isaiah 63: 15-19
Mark 1: 1-11

REFLECTING

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Trans. by John Mason Neal

Dearly beloved!
I have called you so often and you have not heard me.
I have shown myself to you so often
And you have not seen me.
I have made myself fragrance so often,
and you have not smelled me,
savory food, and you have not tasted me.
Why can't you reach me through the object you touch
or breath me through the sweet perfume?
Why do you not see me? Why do you not hear me?
Why? Why? Why?

Ibn 'Arabi

SHARING OUR LIVES IN PRAYER, SHARING CHRIST'S MEAL

REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

SHARING FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR LIVES

LIFTING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

Insert

REMEMBERING JESUS CHRIST'S WORDS

BLESSING THE MEAL

SINGING BEFORE THE MEAL *I Come with Joy*

Black Hymnal 349

SHARING THE MEAL AND PRAYING AT THE PRAYER NET

All who love Jesus Christ are invited to share in this meal. Please come forward as the trio plays, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and eat it as an act of holy union with Christ and his covenant community. If you would like to tie a prayer tie onto our prayer net, please do so after eating the bread you've dipped in the cup.

Trio Improvisation on *Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering*

GIVING THANKS FOR THE MEAL

God who is inseparable from all that lives, whose spirit is the breath of life, we open our hearts to you and pour out our deepest gratitude. From the mystery of your creative spirit come sun and rain, soil and air, grain and grape, and all that sustains our lives. From the mystery of your life and light come Jesus and his self-giving love, and all who gather together seeking new life with him. We give you thanks for the bread and the juice, for Jesus and one another. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio "Aquarium" from *Carnival of the Animals* Saint-Saens

*PRAISING GOD

Tune: Lasst uns erfueren

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 *Crashing Waters at Creation* Black Hymnal 326

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

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

*PARTING WITH A SONG *Brightest and Best*

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.

Huston-Tillotson University will host a **Memorial Service for Dr. Joe McMillan** on **Saturday, January 13, at 11:00 am**. We will remember and honor Joe's life during our Sunday worship service on **Sunday, January 21**.

On **January 14, 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, and to get to know folks a bit better.

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

Coord Council, Tue, Jan 9, 6:30 pm, John Goff's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Debby Kohrt and Kristen Parkhill
Scripture Reader Carolyn Thompson
Fellowship Hosts Board of 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. 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

408 West 23rd Street (512) 472-2370 office
Austin, TX 78705-5214 (512) 472-1175 fax
ucausti@swbell.net
<http://congregationalchurchofaustin.org>

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
Victor Cardenas Custodian

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

an Open and Affirming Church
of The United Church of Christ

January 7, 2018
First Sunday After Epiphany



GATHERING

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

I Peter 2: 4-5

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio "The Swan" from *Carnival of the Animals*

Saint-Saens

*GATHERING AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Christ is our sure foundation,
upon Christ, every stone stands.
Christ is our cornerstone,
around Christ, every stone is arranged.
Every stone that stands upon Christ,
every stone that is arranged around Christ,
upholds and supports ever other stone.

*Standing upon Christ, our foundation,
arranged around Christ, our cornerstone,
we are a spiritual house, a living temple of God.
We worship and serve the living God,
embrace with love all whom God loves,
and welcome all who seek new life in Christ.*

*SINGING A HYMN *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Black Hymnal 400