

DEDICATING OUR GLORY TO GOD HYMNALS

For there to be a world at all, every indigenous, original, natural thing must start singing its song, dancing its dance, moving and breathing, each according to its own nature, saying its name, manifesting simultaneously its secret spiritual signature. Martin Prechtel

With hearts and minds awestruck and grateful, we marvel and give thanks that there is a world at all. Miracle of miracles—we exist! We move and breathe! We think and feel! We sing and dance! Alleluia! Hooray!

O, how we love this creation. This gift of life. And new life. Transformed life. Resurrected life. O, how we love God, source of our lives and all that exists. God! Who inspires our dreams and visions, and fills us with fierce passions to pursue them. God! Who sustains us with every breath, drop and morsel. God! Who pulls us up and out when we're down or stuck in a place too small.

So, how can we keep from singing? Brimming with awe, gratitude and love, with dreams, visions and passions, how can we keep from singing? Song bursts from us! Sing we must! With one another! To our God! To the world! Sing we must! We dedicate our new *Glory to God* hymnals to God, in honor of, in memory of, those we love and hold dear.

*CELEBRATING WITH SONG

My Life Flows On, How Can I Keep from Singing? Red Hymnal 821

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)

*SINGING TOGETHER *I Danced in the Morning* Red Hymnal 157

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

John 3: 1-10 and 20: 19-23

REFLECTING

You will breeze in, fresh air that you are
They will inhale you, deep into their lungs
They will exhale you, as far as you may go
And you will touch their souls, see you will touch their souls. Xavier Rudd

The space between us and a nearby bush is hardly a void. It is thick with swirling currents, adrift with pollens and the silken threads of spiders, a medium instilled with the whiffs and subtle pheromones and other messages riding the unseen flows that compose the atmosphere of this breathing world. And we're not just immersed in this invisible medium, we're participant with it, inhaling this mystery through our nostrils and drawing it into our lungs, metamorphosing it there, exchanging vital elements for others before we breathe it back into the world. David Abrams

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Tambourin* Birkenstock

*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

*UNITING OUR VOICES IN SONG

Breath on Me, Breath of God Red Hymnal 286

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING WITH A SONG

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me Red Hymnal 543

*PARTING WITH A SONG *We Are One in the Spirit* Red Hymnal 300

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.

During **Fellowship Time** today we'll be honoring all the **mothers** in our church. We'll also be celebrating the upcoming graduation of **Megan Goff**, and some of her art work will be on display. She also has some prints for sale at the West Austin Studio Tour May 12-13 and May 19-20, stop #2 at her teacher's studio:

http://west.bigmedium.org/part/part_002.html.

After worship on **Sunday, May 20**, **Rene Slataper** will lead a discussion called **Transgender 101**. In it, he'll discuss being trans, gender, bodies, assigned gender, transgender, gender diverse, non-binary, cisgender, sexuality and gender, transitioning, and language. Any and all questions are encouraged.

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/>

After worship on **Sunday, June 3**, those interested will gather to review our **outreach and justice ministry** using Joanna Macy's typology of holding actions, structural change, and transformation of consciousness.

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

Coord Council, Thu, May 31, 7:15 pm, the Bodman home

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Gail Christeson and John Goff
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
Donna Cravens	Office Manager
Victor Cardenas	Custodian

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

an Open and Affirming Church
of The United Church of Christ

May 13, 2018

The Last Sunday of Easter



GATHERING

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Andantino*

Strauss

GATHERING WITH SONG *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Red Hymnal 452

***GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Spirit who dwells in this world, open the eyes of my heart.

*I want my heart to see you in people's faces,
in their joyful lighthearted expressions, in their grimaces and tears of sorrow.*

Spirit who speaks through this world, open the ears of my heart.

*I want my heart to hear you in people's voices,
in their laughing and crying, their songs and shouts, their stories, their silence.*

Spirit who feels for this world, make my heart more sensitive.

*I want my heart to feel more deeply for people,
more love, joy and tenderness, heartache and concern, fierce compassion.*

Spirit who responds to this world, make my heart more responsive.

*I want my heart to be more responsive
when I see you, hear you, and feel you in other people.*

*I want my heart to respond to other people
the way my heart responds to you.*

***SINGING ALL TOGETHER** *As the Wind Song*

Red Hymnal 292