

PRAYING TO BE JUST, LOVING AND KIND, HUMBLE

Sisters, brothers, kindred in Christ, this is the life to which God call us:
to not just loosen the bonds of oppression,

but to split those bonds in two, to free the oppressed;

to not just loosen the straps that bind the yoke to the neck,

but to break the yoke itself, to cast it off the neck;

to not only share our bread with the hungry poor,

but to abolish the injustice of poverty, to end needless hunger;

to not only bring the homeless poor under our roof,

but to eliminate the need for words like “homeless” and “poor.”

Sisters, brothers, kindred in Christ, let us worship God
in the manner God truly desires.

*As Christ-like agents of justice and righteousness,
as passionate people, working to end poverty, homelessness, and hunger;
as kind people, loving those who experience little compassion from others;
as humble people, taking our place below the people below us, to serve them.
In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen!*

SHARING OUR LIVES IN PRAYER, SHARING CHRIST’S MEAL

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

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR’S GIFT *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Baloche

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Micah 6: 6-8 and Mark 7: 31-37

REFLECTING

The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us. When we begin to take the lowest places, to wash the feet of others, to love our brothers with that burning love, that passion that led to the cross, then we can truly say, “Now I have begun.”
Dorothy Day

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Corrente*

Corelli

*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.

*DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS TO GOD

DEPARTING TO PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*SINGING A HYMN *Heaven Shall Not Wait*

Red Hymnal 773

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *May the Lord Bless You*

Hunnicut

May the Lord bless you. May the Lord keep you.
May the Lord lift up his face to shine upon you.

May the Lord hold you in his hands.
May his love always protect you from all harm.

May God go with you where’er you walk.
May his love guide you throughout your life.

*PARTING WITH A SONG *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

What else can we do but open our hearts,
what else do we need to do? Christine Feldman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **Adult Christian Education** class is studying material from the **United Church of Christ's Curriculum on "White Privilege."** The class is currently exploring the section, "Becoming an Ally." You can download a copy from our church's website.

Today, All Saints' Episcopal Church (209 W 27th St.) will host the **Annual Meeting of Micah 6** with a reception at 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Micah 6 Board Members, staff, members of all Micah 6 congregations, and volunteers are invited. Micah 6 has served the central Austin community for the past 15 years! This organization provides what has become the largest food pantry in the area, offers a Sunday Day Shelter for street youth under the age of 30, facilitates a Women's Resource Group for homeless young women, and supports a meal for those who are hungry in our community each Friday. If possible, please bring some simple luncheon fare to share.

On **Sunday, September 23**, the Deacons will host an **orientation for folks who are new to our church**, and who may be considering membership. This is an informal time to get to know one another better and to learn more about our church's denomination, history, and current ministry. We'll gather at church at 9:30 am. If you're new to CCA, please join us for the conversation.

On **Thursday, October 4**, the **Equal Justice Center** will hold its **annual Mini-Golf Fundraiser** at Peter Pan Mini-Golf, 1207 Barton Springs Rd. (corner of Barton Springs and South Lamar) from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Enjoy family mini-golf, Franklin BBQ, and local craft beer as you support EJC's vital justice work. For the past several years, our church has sponsored one of the holes on the mini-golf course. If you would like to **contribute toward the sponsorship of a hole**, please note on your check memo: EJC Golf sponsorship.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Council, Wed, Sept 26, 7:15 pm, Whit Bodman's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Faye and Andy Dierksen
Nursery Attendant Lynne Lemley

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Adult Christian Education Group meets Sundays at 10:00 am on the 2nd floor.

The Youth Group meets every Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month) after church with the youth from University Christian and University Baptist, to go out for lunch and enjoy a program. Middle and High Schoolers welcome. If you would like to be on the email list for more details, please see Reuel Nash.

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.

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. Tom VandeStadt Pastor
Nodie Murphy Music Director
Rev. Amelia Fulbright Labyrinth Student Ministry
Karen White Piano
Amy Harris Violin
Robin Rosson Cello
Sam Clubb 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

September 9, 2018
The Season of Pentecost

Justice, Loving Kindness, Humility



GATHERING

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Sarabanda*

Corelli

*GATHERING WITH SONG

Be the change you want to see in the world,
be the change you want to see in the world,
be the change you want to see in the world,
and change will come to you.

*GATHERING AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

God has shown us what is good—
good for us, good for all people, good for the earth.

Doing justice is good. Loving kindness is good.

Walking humbly with God is good.

So is feeding the hungry, that's good.

And giving away our second coat,

helping the poor with our money,

binding people's wounds,

rubbing shoulders with outcasts,

inviting the homeless into our home,

washing people's feet...all good!

All good! All traits of being a disciple of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we gather to worship, and to live a good life.

*SINGING A HYMN *What Does the Lord Require*

Red Hymnal 70