

## GIVING THANKS FOR PEOPLE WHO EMBODY HOLINESS

We are thankful for the people we know in our daily lives,  
and the people we interact with only on occasion,  
and the people in positions of power and authority,  
who embody the traits we value so highly,  
the traits that make for a more livable world for all.

*We are thankful for the people  
who are honorable and righteous,  
gracious and merciful,  
faithful, just, and trustworthy,  
compassionate and wise,  
as they live their daily lives, as they interact with us,  
as they use their power and authority  
to promote the common good.*

We recognize these traits as your traits, God, as holy traits,  
and we thank you for the ways your holiness touches our lives  
through the people on this earth who embody your spirit.

*We pray in the spirit of Jesus Christ,  
who embodied your holiness fully. 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 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 AS JESUS PRAYED

debts and debtors

#### RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Deo Dicamus Gratias* Johnson

To God let us say thanks. Let us give praise to the Lord.

## READING AND REFLECTING

### READING FROM THE BIBLE

Psalm 111

### REFLECTING

If you're lucky enough to live toward the privileged end of the power  
spectrum, then you have the luxury of not paying much attention to the  
devastating weight of circumstances that crushes those at the other end.

Noelle Oxenhandler

If we celebrate life with all its contradictions, embrace it, experience it, and  
ultimately live with it, there is the chance for a spiritual life filled not only with  
pain and untidiness, but also with joy, community, and creativity.

Derek Jensen

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

### OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Dancing Doll*

Kreisler

#### \*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 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

Black Hymnal 425

#### \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING SONG *Go Forth into the World in Peace*

Rutter

\*PARTING WITH A SONG *We Gather Together*

Praise the Lord!  
I will give thanks to the Lord  
with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright,  
in the congregation.

Psalm 111: 1

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

On **December 2, 9, and 16**, Mir Georgeson, a UT student and member of Labyrinth Student Ministry, will lead a 3-part series for our church on **Neurodiversity and the Church**. The first session, Neurodiversity 101, will focus on cognitive disability and neurodiversity, and how neurodiversity has become a political movement within the broader disability rights movement. The second Sunday will address the specific kinds of stigma and discrimination that people with cognitive disabilities face, the advocacy done to overcome discrimination, and how members of our church can be more socially conscious allies. The third session will address accessibility for cognitively disabled folks and how our church can be more accessible.

On **Sunday, December 16**, we will gather at 7 pm for our annual **Advent Candlelight Service**, and then enjoy hearty fellowship and holiday fare in Fellowship Hall.

We will be serving our **Christmas Open Door Dinner** this **Christmas Day**. We'll need folks to set up in the morning, serve at 12:30, and clean up after the meal. We're typically done by 3:00. As you make your Christmas plans, please consider providing some food, or helping to set up, serve, or clean up.

Our **prayer net** hangs on the door towards the front of our sanctuary. Please feel free to tie a prayer tie onto the net before or after the service. Prayer ties are located in the basket near the net.

You can make your **financial contribution** to the Congregational Church of Austin **electronically** through **Tithe.ly**. You can install the app on a smart device or contribute to CCA on the Tithe.ly website. **For more information** about Tithe.ly and how to use the service, please pick up an information sheet in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall, or ask our Office Administrator, Donna Cravens, to send you one electronically.

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Council, Tue, Nov 27, 7:15 pm, Whit Bodman's

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Keith and Darcy Beresheim  
Nursery Assistant Shaela Rutherford

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**The Adult Christian Education Group** meets Sundays at 10:00 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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Rev. Tom VandeStadt Pastor  
Nodie Murphy Music Director  
Rev. Amelia Fulbright Labyrinth Student Ministry  
Jonathan Geer Piano  
Amy Harris Violin  
Tony Rogers Cello  
Amy Kent 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



November 25, 2018  
The Season of Pentecost

Each Moment,  
A Gift.  
We Are Thankful.

## GATHERING

### WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

### ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio "Larghetto" from *Sonata in F*

Handel

### \*GATHERING AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

We receive  
each moment of our lives  
as a gift from God,  
a gift sustained in countless ways  
by all that we receive from the earth.

*We give thanks  
for all that we receive  
from everywhere, everything, and everyone,  
from God, creator and source of life.*

We pray that our lives  
may be a gift to other people,  
a gift to the earth.

*A blessing,  
like the blessing we receive,  
from the God who blesses us with life.*

\*SINGING A HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God*

Red Hymnal 643