

## AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

World Council of Churches

We believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people;  
in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression;  
in the Spirit of God, who works through all who are turned toward the truth;  
in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people;  
in God's promise to establish the kingdom of justice and peace for all humankind.

We do not believe in the right of the strongest, nor the force of arms,  
nor the power of oppression.

We believe in human rights, in the solidarity of all people,  
in the power of non-violence.

We do not believe in racism, in the power that comes from wealth and privilege,  
or in any established order that enslaves.

We believe that all men and women are equally human, that order based on violence  
and injustice is not order.

We do not believe that war and hunger are inevitable,  
and peace unobtainable.

We believe in the beauty of simplicity, in love with open hands,  
in peace on earth.

We do not believe that suffering need be in vain, or that the disfigurement of our  
world is what God intended.

We dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform  
and transfigure, fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth where  
justice and peace will flourish.

## 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** (debts and debtors)

**RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT** *Shine, Jesus, Shine* Kendrick/arr. Hayes

## READING AND REFLECTING

### READING FROM THE BIBLE

Acts of the Apostles 4: 1-13; 23-31

### REFLECTING

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produced beggars needs restructuring. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth...and say, "This is not just."  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Power for poor people will really mean having the ability, the togetherness, the assertiveness, and the aggressiveness to make the power structure of this nation say yes when they may be desirous to say no. And it is my hope that we will get together, and be together, and really stand up to gain power for poor people—Black people, Mexican-Americans, American-Indians, Puerto Ricans, Appalachian Whites, all working together to solve the problem of poverty.  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

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

Trio *An den Fruling*

Grieg

### \*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** *We Shall Overcome*

Black Hymnal 570

\***OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

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

\***SENDING SONG** *We Are Marching in the Light of God* Black Hymnal 526

\***PARTING WITH A SONG** *Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day*

## 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.

We have two upcoming **after-worship discussions**. On **April 8 (today)**, the folks gathering for "Notes to myself..." will meet after worship. On **April 29**, we'll gather to answer Jesus' question to his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?"

Carrie Newcomer is giving a **benefit concert** for the **Austin Sanctuary Network** on **Friday, April 20, 8 pm**, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Branch Drive. Tickets cost \$20.00, and you can purchase them from Whit Bodman or online at <https://grassrottsleadership.org/ASNbenefit2018>

The **Micah 6 Sunday Drop-In Meal** preparers and servers will meet on **Sunday, April 22**, after worship to discuss whether to extend our commitment to prepare and serve meals throughout 2018 and into 2019.

We'll be celebrating **Youth Sunday** on Sunday, **May 6**, along with our partner churches, University Baptist Church and University Christian Church. **We will not have a service here on May 6. We will join UBC and UCC for a joint service at University Christian Church at 10:50 am (2007 University Ave).**

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**.

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.

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Counc Thursday, April 26, 7:15 pm, at the Bodman's

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Keith and Darcy Beresheim  
Scripture Reader Lynne Lemley  
Fellowship Host The Deacons

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

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

**April 8, 2018**

**The Second Sunday of Easter**



## GATHERING

And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness...When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. Acts: 4: 29; 31

## WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

## SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio "Grave" from *Sonata in C Major*

Vitali

## \*GATHERING AS CHRIST'S DISCIPLES

Sisters and brothers in Christ,  
may we be shaken!

Deep within, at the core of our being,  
may we be shaken!

*Shaken from business-as-usual,  
shaken from our comfort zones,  
shaken from our fear,  
shaken from what the world accepts as normal!*

Christ is risen!  
The Holy Spirit is in this place!

*In the name of the risen Christ,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
may we speak God's word with boldness,  
and shake the world!*

**\*SINGING A HYMN** *Standing at the Future's Threshold* Black Hymnal 538