

BEING RIGHTEOUS, UNRIGHTEOUS, LESS THAN RIGHTEOUS

The people will ask the ruler,
when were we righteous, and when were we unrighteous?

And the ruler will say,
when you knew people were living in poverty,
knew they were suffering from hunger, thirst or sickness,
knew they needed clothing, emergency shelter, a home,
and you responded by doing all you could for them,
gave them what they needed, sought justice for them,
then you were righteous.

But when you knew and did nothing, you were unrighteous,
and when you did less than you could, you were less than righteous.

When you knew people were far from home, friendless and disoriented,
knew people were being persecuted, scapegoated and marginalized,
because they were foreigners,
because of their gender, race, ethnicity or religion,
because they were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender,
and you responded by doing all you could for them,
you gave them what they needed, sought justice for them,
then you were righteous.

But when you knew and did nothing, you were unrighteous,
and when you did less than you could, you were less than righteous.

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 *I Have Felt the Hand of God* Courtney

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Matthew 25: 31-46

REFLECTING

Rene Slataper

The church is never more true to itself than when it remembers its origins as a sect, as a minority opinion, counter-cultural and antiestablishment. Questioning the rightness of things as they are has again and again been the spark of the church's renewal and the hallmark of its faithfulness to the gospel.

David Rensberger

When we get to heaven and are separated into sheep and goats, I don't believe Jesus is going to say, "When I was hungry you gave a check to United Way and they fed me," or "When I was naked, you donated clothes to the Salvation Army and they clothed me." Jesus is not seeking distant acts of charity. He is seeking concrete actions of love: "you fed me...you visited me...you welcomed me in...you clothed me..."

Shane Clairborne

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Andante con Moto*

Weber

*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** *Lead Us From Death to Life*

Black Hymnal 581

***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** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

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.

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.

On Sunday, **April 29**, we'll gather for an **after-worship discussion** to answer Jesus' question to his disciples: **"Who do you say that I am?"**

Our **Talent Show** will be **Friday, May 4**. Soup serving begins at 6 pm, and the show begins as soon as we finish the soup. We'll accept donations for a worthy cause and every participant will receive an award. Nodie has her clipboard and is signing up the acts!

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**.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

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

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Betty and Whit Bodman
Scripture Reader Haksoon Andrea Low
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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Nodie Murphy Music Director
Rev. Amelia Fulbright Labyrinth Student Ministry
Dr. Maimy Fong Piano
Amy Harris Violin
Robin Rosson 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 15, 2018
The Third Sunday of Easter



GATHERING

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited.
Philippians 2: 3-6

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Cavatina*

Raff

*GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Sisters in Christ, brothers in Christ,
as we gather as the Body of Christ,
may we together embody the mind of Christ.

*Yes, Christ! The one who humbled himself,
served God and humanity, died on the cross,
and lives within us and amongst us now.*

Let us love one another with Christ's love,
doing nothing from selfishness, having no conceit,
humbling ourselves before God, and serving one another.

*Offering our own hearts and minds to God,
let us humbly serve God, one another, and a world
desperate for liberating, healing, reconciling love*

***SINGING A HYMN** *In the Midst of New Dimensions*

Black Hymnal 391