

PRAYING TO EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

When those who represent a spiritual tradition embody the essence of their tradition, just the way they walk, sit, and smile speaks volumes about the tradition. Thich Nhat Hanh

May we embody the way of Jesus Christ,
knowing Christ has no body now on earth
but my body, your body, the communal body of Christ lovers;
knowing Christ has no hands to touch this world,
no feet with which to go about doing good,
no eyes to see, no ears to hear,
no heart to love, no mind to contemplate,
no lips to speak,
but mine, yours, ours.

*May others experience Christ's compassion and wisdom,
Christ's humility, mercy, and fierce passion for justice,
in the way we walk, sit, and smile,
in the way we move about and touch this world,
in our active care for those who hurt,
in our hunger and thirst for justice and righteousness.
May we speak volumes about the way of Christ,
by embodying the living spirit of Christ. In his name we pray. 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 FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR LIVES

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 *Steal Away* arr. Hogan

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Matthew 17: 1-8

REFLECTING

Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness,
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho
lies dead by the side of the road.
You must see how this could be you,
how he too was someone
who journeyed through the night with plans
and the simple breath that kept him alive.

Naomi Shihab Nye

Take your well-disciplined strengths
and stretch them between two
opposing poles. Because inside human beings
is where God learns.

Rainer Maria Rilke

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Savior God Above*

Ellington

*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 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 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

Black Hymnal 454

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *I Will Trust in the Lord*

Black Hymnal 416

*PARTING WITH A SONG *This Little Light of Mine*

Black Hymnal 524

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

The **Discipleship Group** meets this Wednesday, 7:30pm,

Austin Interfaith's Delegates Assembly is today, 3pm, at Wildflower Unitarian Church. On February 18, Kathleen Davis will talk about Austin Interfaith during worship, and All Saints Episcopal will host a Civic Academy on Code Next at 2:30 pm.

The **Vision Team** will host a meeting next Sunday, February 18, after worship, to give a report on the findings from the first two House Meetings on spirituality and mission.

The Deacons would like to contribute on behalf of our church to the **Dr. Joseph T McMillan and Family Endowed Scholarship Fund at Huston-Tillotson University** as a way to honor Joe McMillan. If you'd like to contribute to the Deacons' Remembrance Fund, please submit a check and write Deacons' Remembrance Fund in the memo line.

We will host a **Muslim-Christian Interfaith Dialogue** with the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest at church on **Thursday, February 15, at 7 pm. We have arranged free parking in the COOP Garage.**

During the Annual Meeting **Nodie Murphy** proposed that we replace the Pilgrim Hymnals in our pews with the **Glory to God Hymnal**. Several Glory to God Hymnals are on a table in the Fellowship Hall for you to check out.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Council, Tue, Feb 27, 7:15pm, the Bodmans'

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Whit and Betty Bodman
Scripture Reader Keith Beresheim
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. Van Herd Adult Christian Education
Rev. Amelia Fulbright Labyrinth Student Ministry
Jonathan Geer Piano
Amy Harris Violin
Tony Rogers Cello
Amy Rivera 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

February 11, 2018

The Last Sunday of Epiphany



GATHERING

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Lullaby*

Gershwin

***GATHERING WITH SONG** *I Woke Up This Morning*

Black Hymnal 85

***GATHERING WITH OPEN HEARTS AND MINDS**

Sisters in Christ, brothers in Christ,
open your hearts, open your minds!
Christ is speaking to us today,
telling us who to be, and how to be,
what to do, and how to do it.

Christ is telling us how to bring God's way of life
to life through our lives,
through who we are, and how we are,
what we do, and how we do it.

*Our hearts are open,
our minds too!*

May Christ's words

*make our hearts more compassionate,
our minds wiser.*

May Christ's words

*move us to become ever more like Christ,
with everything we say,
and everything we do.*

***SINGING A HYMN** *Guide My Feet*

Black Hymnal 497