

GATHERING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

RECEIVING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Largo*

Matteis

GATHERING WITH SONG *Come and Fill*

Taize #28

GATHERING WITH PRAYER

The distance between us and the reign of God
is measured not with miles, not with hours, but with love.
Loving God, loving our neighbor as our self,
this draws us into the reign of God.

*We pray, may we love God with all our heart, mind,
soul and strength, and may we love our neighbor as our self.
May love bridge the distance between us and the reign of God,
by drawing us closer to God, and closer to our neighbor.*

*SINGING A HYMN *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

Black Hymnal 204

PRAYING TO SEE THE LOG IN OUR EYE

Jesus said, “Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye,
but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say
to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’
while the log is in your own eye?”

*Because the log in my eye is so close to me,
so much a part of me, that I’m used to it
and don’t notice it, or if I do notice it, I pretend I don’t.
And because it would be painful to notice it, to acknowledge it,
to confess that I have a log in my eye.
So I pray, may I look closely at myself, deeply within myself,
to see what’s hurtful to others and myself,
and to confess what’s painful to acknowledge.
In confessing, may I experience the grace of forgiveness and healing,
the grace of a log removed and a burden lifted.*

REFLECTING IN SILENCE

READING, REFLECTING, AND PRAYING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Mark 12: 28-34

REFLECTING

SHARING WITH ONE ANOTHER

PRAYING WITH ONE ANOTHER

PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED

(debts and debtors)

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR’S GIFT *While We Are Living* arr. Parker

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Svanen*

Palmgren

*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 *O God, How We Have Wandered* Black Hymnal 591

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *This Is My Song*

Black Hymnal 591

*PARTING WITH A SONG *Hope of the World*

Give us big hearts, dear God;
Big enough to embrace all our sisters and brothers
Especially those in trouble,
Whether of their own making
Or because of wrongs done to them.
Give us big hearts, dear God;
Big enough to acknowledge our own weakness
Before pointing a finger at others.

Kathy Keay

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a **brief meeting** after worship today to plan the dinner we'll be preparing for the **Micah 6 Drop-In Center on March 11**. We'll meet in the Library.

"Notes to myself on being a disciple." Inspired by painter Richard Diebenkorn's "Notes to myself on beginning a painting," we'll reflect on what we need to remember to live as a disciple of Christ, as we define what that means for us. This will be a fun exercise in which we identify what's most important to us, and a good way to get to know one another better. We'll meet today after worship.

We never talk about God. Next Sunday, we'll gather after worship to share our beliefs about God, our spiritual experiences, and our doubts and questions. What we say about God also says a lot about us, so this is another way to get to know one another better.

Sam Clubb asks that we **donate fun dress-up clothes** to the nursery to stimulate the imaginations of our young children as they play.

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.

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.

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

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Jaime Hadley and Bill Beardall
Scripture Reader Dennis Murphy
Fellowship Host 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 "Time With Children."

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

408 West 23rd Street (512) 472-2370 office
Austin, TX 78705-5214
<http://congregationalchurchofaustin.org>
ucausti@swbell.net

Rev. Thomas J VandeStadt Pastor
Nodie Murphy Music Director
Rev. Amelia Fulbright Labyrinth Student Ministry
Jonathan Geer 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

February 25, 2018
The Second Sunday of Lent



What About Looking Inward To Personally Examine Who We Really Are?

We possess a pair of eyes
to help us observe
as well as to discover,
yet most of us
simply do not see
in the true sense of the word.

However,
when it comes to observing
faults in others,
most of us are quick
to react with condemnation.

But what about
looking inward for a change?
To personally examine
who we really are
and what we are,
our merits
as well as our faults—in short,
to see oneself
as one is for once
and to take responsibility
for oneself.

Bruce Lee