

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Luke 22: 14-27

REFLECTING

The Greek philosophers, and Aristotle in particular, pursued an idea of moderation, of finding the sensible median point and avoiding excess. But that does not give us a good fix of the figure of Jesus, whose life and death are marked precisely by excess, not the excess of violence but the excess of the gift, of finding the point of equilibrium and then recommending the step beyond so that to follow in his steps is to be committed to taking an extra step, to going an extra mile. You have heard it said, love your friend and hate your enemies, but I say love your enemies. John Caputo

Greed damages what it desires and the gift of abundance always tests us. It invites us to a sense of proportion in how we see, feel and act. Without proportion, there is no balance, and the force of imbalance ultimately brings destruction. John O'Donohue

We should be willing to act as a balm for all wounds. Etty Hillesum

SHARING OUR LIVES IN PRAYER,

SHARING CHRIST'S MEAL

REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

SHARING FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR LIVES

LIFTING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

Insert

REMEMBERING JESUS CHRIST'S WORDS

BLESSING THE MEAL

SINGING BEFORE THE MEAL *Jesus is Here Right Now*

Black Hymnal 348

SHARING THE MEAL AND PRAYING AT THE PRAYER NET

All who love Jesus Christ are invited to share in this meal. Please come forward as the trio plays, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and eat it as an act of holy union with Christ and his covenant community. If you would like to tie a prayer tie onto our prayer net, please do so after eating the bread you've dipped in the cup.

Trio *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

GIVING THANKS FOR THE MEAL

God who is inseparable from all that lives, whose spirit is the breath of life, we open our hearts to you and pour out our deepest gratitude. From the mystery of your creative spirit come sun and rain, soil and air, grain and grape, and all that sustains our lives. From the mystery of your life and light come Jesus and his self-giving love, and all who gather together seeking new life with him. We give you thanks for the bread and the juice, for Jesus and one another. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *The Bells*

Rebel

*PRAISING GOD

Tune: Lasst uns erfueren

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 *Renew Your Church*

Black Hymnal 311

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Black Hymnal 76

*PARTING WITH A SONG *Take My Life, God, Let It Be*

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 **Vision Team** will host a meeting on **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 an **interfaith dialogue** with the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest at church on **Thursday, February 15, at 7 pm**. The question to be discussed: Why does God allow violence?

During the Annual Meeting **Nodie Murphy** proposed that we replace the Pilgrim Hymnals in our pews with the **Glory to God Hymnal**. She will be leaving a couple of Glory to God Hymnals on a table in the Fellowship Hall, along with some helpful lists of favorite Pilgrim hymns found in the proposed hymnal for congregants to leaf through. Come see what change looks like.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons, Tue, Feb 6, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's home
Trustees, Wed, Feb 7, 7:15 pm, at Reuel Nash's home

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers	Keith and Darcy Beresheim
Scripture Reader	Andy and Faye Dierksen
Fellowship Hosts	Board of 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. Child care begins at 9:15 am for the parents of children attending choir practice or the Adult Christian Education Group.

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 (512) 472-1175 fax
ucausti@swbell.net
<http://congregationalchurchofaustin.org>

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

February 4, 2018
Season of Epiphany



GATHERING

Tell me whom you love and I will tell you who you are.

Arsene Houssaye

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio "Aria" from *Alexander Nevsky*

Prokofiev/arr. Gingold

*GATHERING AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Sisters and brothers, open your hearts
to the spirit and the power of love.
Everyone here this morning loves you,
so open your hearts, receive that love!

*We celebrate the spirit and the power of love,
love between a man and a man, a woman and a woman,
love between a woman and a man, a mother and a child, a father and a child,
love between grandparents and grandchildren,
love between cousins, between aunts and uncles and nephews and nieces,
love for a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker,
love for a stranger, a visitor, a foreigner,
love for a person suffering, a person homeless, a person hungry,
love for a person scared, a person angry, a person filled with hate,
love for an enemy.*

We love your realm, O God.

*We love your realm, O God,
by loving one another,
and many more, besides.*

***SINGING A HYMN** *We Love Your Realm, O God*

Black Hymnal 312