

AFFIRMING OUR CHURCH'S CALL

We are a people united in Christ.

God calls us to be a loving and inclusive community of faith, a people united and uniting. God calls us to welcome all people in the name of Jesus Christ, who welcomes us.

We are a people who sing God's praises.

God calls us to invite all people to participate with us in life-renewing worship, to cry out in our brokenness, and to celebrate God's grace and blessing upon us.

We are a people who seek God's ways.

God calls us to discover God's word in the Bible, in our rich heritage, in faithful witness to the living Word, and in the fresh winds of the Spirit.

We are a people who serve God's world.

God calls us to promote the integrity, justice, mercy, and peace God intends for all creation, and to reach out in ministries and partnerships of prophetic criticism and care.

We are a people who share life's journey.

God calls us to support one another and to share in the hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, of all God's people, both in the church and the world.

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.

PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED (debts and debtors)

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *We Are the Servants of God*
Rommereim

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Isaiah 49: 1-7

REFLECTING

To find our calling is to find the intersection between our own deep gladness and the world's deep hunger. Frederick Buechner

The task is huge, the hour is late, and the need is real. As potential for goodness, we have it within ourselves to try to change situations for the better, to influence decisions that will affect people's lives, to communicate in ways that will build healthy relationships, to create beauty where none was before. We know we have limits, as others do and the world does, but we examine identified limits to see if they are real, adjust to them if they are, and move through them if they are not...Our world is getting smaller. As it does, our walls will do one of two things: they will get thinner or they will get thicker. They will not stay the same. Greta Vosper

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Sonatina* Schubert

*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 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

Black Hymnal 495

*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 *God, Our Author and Creator*

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 church pays for **parking at the COOP Garage until 2:00 pm on Sundays**. If the exit gate is down, please tell the garage attendant that you attend the **Congregational Church of Austin**. If you encounter any problems, please let us know.

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.

Our church's **Annual Meeting** is **today** after worship. Please stay to review our 2017 ministry, look ahead to 2018, and pass our budget for 2018.

The Deacons would like to contribute on behalf of our church to the **Dr. Joseph McMillan scholarship fund at Huston-Tillotson University** as a way to honor Joe McMillan. If you would like to contribute to the Deacons' Memorial Fund, please submit a check and write Deacons' Memorial Fund in the memo line.

We will host an **interfaith dialogue** with the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest on the evening of **Thursday, February 15**. The question to be discussed: Why does God allow violence?

If you would like to do **Read from the Bible** during worship, please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Tom at revtomv@swbell.net. And if you would like to submit a **liturgy or prayer** for use during worship, please contact Tom.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

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

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Betty and Whit Bodman
Scripture Reader Bryan Rutherford
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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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

January 28, 2018
The Season of Epiphany



GATHERING

You, then, are my workers. You have come from me, the supreme eternal gardener, and I have engrafted you onto the vine by making myself one with you. Keep in mind that each of you has your own vineyard. But everyone is joined to your vineyard, and your neighbor's vineyard, without any dividing lines. They are joined together, in fact, that you cannot do good or evil for yourself without doing the same for your neighbors. Catherine of Siena

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER AND SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio "Adagio" from *Sonata pathétique*

Beethoven

*GATHERING AS CHRIST'S DISCIPLES

We are Christ's workers,
born from the very heart, soul, womb of God,
alive in this garden,
one with God.

*We are Christ's workers,
each with a portion of the vineyard to tend,
vines entwining us with our neighbors,
their neighbors, the entire world.*

We, Christ's workers, love God,
from whose heart, soul, womb,
we are given life and grow.

*We, Christ's workers, love our neighbors,
their neighbors, the world,
with whom our lives are interwoven.*

*SINGING A HYMN *Awake, My Soul*

Black Hymnal 491