

GATHERING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Trio *Andante con espressione*

Schumann

COMING TO CHRIST'S TABLE

For so many years,
so many people,
living in so many places,
under so many circumstances,
have come to Christ's table,
bringing so many hopes and fears,
so many joys and concerns,
so many respectful requests and silent pleadings,
so many prayers of thanks and offerings of self.

*Today, we come to Christ's table,
people living in our place, under our circumstances,
people in need of Christ's table, in need of one another,
people thankful that at Christ's table,
we come together as many yet one.*

***SINGING A HYMN** *Help Us Accept Each Other*

Red Hymnal 754

READING, REFLECTING, AND PRAYING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Matthew 18: 1-7

REFLECTING

SITTING SILENTLY

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED

Insert

SHARING CHRIST'S MEAL

REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS

BLESSING THE MEAL

SINGING BEFORE WE SHARE THE MEAL

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

Red Hymnal 498

SHARING THE MEAL AND PRAYING AT THE PRAYER NET

All who love Jesus Christ are invited to share in this meal. Please come forward, 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.

REFLECTING WITH MUSIC DURING THE MEAL

Trio *Jesus Took the Bread*

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 "Menuett" aus dem *D dur—Divertimento*

Mozart

***PRAISING GOD** Tune: Tallis Canon (sung once together, then as a round)

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.

***DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS TO GOD**

DEPARTING TO PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

***SINGING A HYMN** *O God of Every Nation*

Red Hymnal 756

***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**

What Is the World Like When God's Will Is Done?

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.

Our Board of Trustees has made arrangements for members and friends of the Congregational Church of Austin to **contribute electronically** through a program called **Tithe.ly**. Members and friends can install the app on a smart device or contribute to CCA on the Tithe.ly website. **For more information** about Tithe.ly and how to use the service, please pick up an information sheet in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall, or ask our Office Administrator, Donna Cravens, to send you one electronically.

Please prayerfully consider joining one of our new vision Task Forces. **Task Force 1 is Strengthening Our Community**, with John Goff serving as the organizer. **Task Force 2 is Broadening Our Community and Outreach**, with Whit Bodman serving as the organizer. **Task Force 3 is Accessibility and Flexibility of our Facilities**, with Jim Howicz serving as the organizer. **Task Force 4 is Our Future in a Changing Neighborhood**, with Bill Beardall serving as the organizer. Talk to the organizers to get a better sense of these four task forces, and sign up on the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall.

Please send **Jonathan Zercher** your contact information if you are interested in knowing about opportunities to participate in **Austin Sanctuary Network** activities. There are chances to do something to help almost every week. If you want to receive emails or texts when such chances arise, please email Jonathan your email address and/or phone number @ jonathan.zercher@gmail.com, and he will alert you to opportunities as they come up.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Trustees, Thu, Aug 2, 7:15pm, at Gail Christeson's home
Deacons, Tues, Aug 7, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's home

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Debby Khort and Kristen Parkhill
Scripture Reader Dennis Murphy
Fellowship 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 "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

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Rev. Amelia Fulbright	Labyrinth Student Ministry
Nodie Murphy	Music Director
Jonathan Geer	Piano
Amy Harris	Viola
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

July 1, 2018
The Season of Pentecost



Cherishing A Vision Of The World As Paradise

The Christian tradition has long cherished a vision of the world as paradise, a simple, harmonious whole made manifest in creation and renewed in Christ. From the garden in Genesis to the peaceable kingdom in Isaiah to the heavenly city in the Book of Revelation, one encounters recurring images of this unbroken whole that is paradise.

But what kind of place is it and where is it to be found? Is it part of a world that once was but is no longer? Is it part of a dream that can only be realized in the world to come? Or does it perhaps exist here and now, for those with eyes to see and ears to hear?

The persistent presence of violence, suffering, and death makes it difficult if not impossible to believe in the idea that in the world as we know it, "everything is in fact paradise." It seems more honest to acknowledge that paradise is simply lost to us, and that if it exists at all it must be part of a future hope, never to be fully realized in our current existence.

Still, there is a recurring dream that, in fact, paradise is somehow knowable, graspable, inhabitable in this present reality.

If this seems quixotic, as indeed it almost surely must seem to any sober observer, one must nevertheless ask what the cost would be to us were we ever to stop believing in this possibility. That is, is the dream of paradise, still mysteriously present and alive to us in the midst of suffering and loss and grief, necessary to the work of healing the broken world? Must we be able to imagine the world as whole in order to learn again to inhabit it with tenderness and care, to contribute toward its renewal?

Douglas Christie