

## GATHERING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

Be careful then how you live,  
not as unwise people, but as wise,  
making the most of the time,  
because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5: 15-16

### WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

### SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Moderato*

Debussy

### GATHERING WITH PRAYER

As we gather together, we pray,  
may we be careful how we live these days,  
for these days call for great care—  
for caring people, for careful living.

*We pray, may we live these days  
not as unwise people, but as wise people,  
making the most of our precious time,  
caring for others, treading our paths with care.*

\*SINGING A HYMN *Come! Live in the Light!*

Red Hymnal 749

## 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.

### LIFTING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER

### PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED

(debts and debtors)

### RECEIVING A WORSHIP GIFT

Ruth Koenig

## READING AND REFLECTING

### READING FROM THE BIBLE

Ephesians 5: 15-20

### REFLECTING

May I respectfully remind you: Great is the matter of birth and death.  
All is impermanent, quickly passing. Wake up!  
Don't waste this precious life.

The Han Verse

Does the world have a voice? Does it beckon to us, call us toward an  
intimate encounter, toward a response of reciprocity, even love? Can we  
learn to listen and respond to this call, orient ourselves toward this world in  
a way that reflects a renewed sense of responsibility and care for the world?

Douglas Christie

Your capacity to care is God; it is your beauty.

John O'Donohue

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

### OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio "Andante" from *Trio #2*

Haydn

\*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 *Touch the Earth Lightly*

Red Hymnal 713

### \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING WITH A SONG *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* Black Hymnal 76

\*PARTING WITH A SONG *Be Thou My Vision*

The ultimate test of a religion or spirituality  
is the kind of life it produces.

Sam Keen

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Sunday School Teacher, **Amy Rivera Kent**, will be giving birth to her child at the end of August. We'll be anticipating and celebrating this joyous event with Amy after worship today.

Our **Adult Christian Education** class is studying material from the **United Church of Christ's Curriculum on "White Privilege."** We're currently exploring the section, "Becoming an Ally." You can download a copy from our church's website.

See **Whit Bodman** about gathering with members of church at Dell Diamond to enjoy a **Round Rock Express** game in late July or August.

All of our current friends in **sanctuary** enjoy having meals with visitors. If you're interested, please contact **Jonathan Zercher** for coordination. And please send Jonathan your contact information (at jonathan.zercher@gmail.com) if you're interested in knowing about other opportunities to participate in **Austin Sanctuary Network** activities.

The Jewish Community Center will host the **2018 Pride Interfaith Celebration** on **Sunday, August 5, at 4 pm.** "Love in Action" is the theme, and Kat Macias will be the featured speaker. JCC is located at 7300 Hart Lane.

Please consider joining one or more of our new **Vision Taskforces**. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall, and the team organizers will be more than happy to answer any questions you have.

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.

## 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 Andy and Faye Dierksen  
Nursery Assistant Rachel Dietz  
Fellowship Host The Deacons

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**The Adult Christian Education Group** meets Sundays at 10:00 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**The Youth Group** meets every Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month) after church with the youth from University Christian and University Baptist, to go out for lunch and enjoy a program. Middle and High Schoolers welcome. If you would like to be on the email list for more details, please see Reuel Nash.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Kent 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 29, 2018**

**The Season of Pentecost**



## THE SUMMER DAY

Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean—  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up  
and down,  
who is gazing around with her enormous  
and complicate eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes  
her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the  
fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?

Mary Oliver