

**PRAYING TO BE BLESSED BY GOD’S SHALOM**

May we be blessed,  
deeply blessed, thoroughly blessed,  
to experience God’s spirit, God’s shalom,  
through other people, people through whom  
God is transfiguring this world.

*May God bless us through other people’s care and compassion,  
their capacity to do good, to nurture wholeness,  
their generosity in sharing their time, skills, and possessions,  
their easy-going laughter and natural joy,  
their ability to bring people together and to heal divisions,  
and their tireless work, even when tired, for justice.*

And may we be blessed  
to ourselves be people  
through whom God is transfiguring this world.

*May we be blessed to be people  
through whom God blesses other people,  
with God’s spirit, God’s shalom.*

**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** Ave Maria ( Jonathan Geer, with Amy Harris and Tony Rogers)

**READING AND REFLECTING**

**READING FROM THE BIBLE**

Philippians 4: 4-9

**REFLECTING**

Be silent in your mind,  
silent in your senses,  
and also silent in your body.  
Then, when all these are silent, don’t do anything.  
In that state truth will reveal itself to you.  
It will appear in front of you and ask, “What do you want?”

Kabir

We should be willing to act as a balm for all wounds. Etty Hillesum  
How did the rose ever open its heart and give to this world all its beauty?  
It felt the encouragement of light against its being.  
Otherwise we all remain too afraid. Hafez

**OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY**

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

Trio *Plenty of Fish* Geer

**\*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.

**DEPARTING TO PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**\*SINGING A HYMN** *I’ve Got Peace Like A River* Red Hymnal 623

**\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD**

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

**\*PARTING WITH A SONG** *Solfeggio* CPE Bach/arr. Geer

And the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds  
in Christ Jesus.

## 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 Sunday School Teacher, **Amy Rivera Kent**, will be giving birth to her child at the end of August. We'll be celebrating this joyous event with Amy after worship on **Sunday, July 29**.

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](mailto: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  
Coord Council, Thu, Aug 16, 7:15 pm, the Bodman's home

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Gail Christeson and John Goff  
Fellowship Host The Deacons

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

408 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (512) 472-2370 office  
Austin, TX 78705-5214 (512) 472-1175 fax  
[ucausti@swbell.net](mailto: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 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 8, 2018**

**The Season of Pentecost**



## GATHERING

All over this magnificent world God calls us to extend God's kingdom of shalom—peace and wholeness—of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, and of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us. Desmond Tutu

## WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

## SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio Excerpt from *Impromptu in F# Major*

Geer

## \*GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Blessed are the peace-makers,  
for they shall be called sons and daughters of God!  
Blessed are those who extend God's reign of shalom,  
whose very lives bring about justice and goodness,  
whose hearts ring with compassion and care,  
who in the company of others share what they have,  
evoke laughter and joy,  
and reconcile those who are divided.

*Embodying Christ's spirit in our daily lives—  
his love and wisdom, his mercy and compassion,  
his thirst for justice, his suffering to fulfill his call—  
may we be peacemakers, sons and daughters of God,  
sisters and brothers of Christ.*

**\*SINGING TOGETHER** O Love That Will Not Let Me Go Red Hymnal 833