

PRAYING TO EMBODY CHRIST'S LOVE Inspired by I Corinthians 13: 4-7

May we, as Christ's disciples, embody Christ's love in our lives.
May we be patient and kind in our interactions with other people;
may we be healed of the insecurity that makes us envious of others,
or makes us boast about ourselves;
may we stretch beyond our small selves, beyond self-centered concerns,
beyond narrow arrogance;
may we not treat others rudely, or insist on our own way,
but consider the needs of others;
may we experience the inner stillness that defuses our irritation with others,
and the compassion that softens our anger and resentment towards others;
may we not rejoice in unrighteous acts, even if they benefit us,
but rejoice only in righteousness, even if it calls us to sacrifice;
May love enable us to bear all the burdens we carry in our lives,
to believe what seems unbelievable,
to hope when all appears hopeless,
and to endure with grace what we could not endure without love.
In Christ's name, by Christ's love, we pray. Amen

**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 Dennis Murphy

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Ezekiel 17: 22-24
Mark 4: 26-34
Rev. Amelia Fulbright

REFLECTING

We shape our self
to fit this world

and by the world
are shaped again.

The visible
and the invisible

working together
in common cause,

to produce
the miraculous.

David Whyte

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Arietta* Buxdehude

***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** *We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed* Black Hymnal 540

***TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD**

***SENDING WITH A SONG** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*
Red Hymnal 543

***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.

The **Micah 6 Food Pantry** needs 12 to 15 **volunteers** every Saturday to serve the 250 people who depend on the pantry's food, but it currently only has around 5 volunteers signed up for some Saturdays. If you can volunteer, please do so at the following site:
<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1324908/false#/invitation>

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Trustees, Thu, June 21, 7:15 pm, at Which Craft Tap Room

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Jaime Hadley and Bill Beardall
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

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

June 17, 2018

The Season of Pentecost



GATHERING

Who are the prophets?

They are a royal people,
who penetrate mystery
and see with the spirit's eyes.

In illuminating darkness they speak out.

They are living, penetrating clarity,
they are a blossom blooming only
on the shoot that is rooted in the
flood of light.

Hildegard of Bingen

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Cavatina*

Raff

*GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Rooted in light, blooming in light,
our hearts and minds, spirits and souls,
blossom with life, illuminate the darkness,
speak out with love, call out for justice,
and reveal the beauty of Christ's way.

*The beauty of Christ's way is his love and mercy,
his humility and righteousness, his penetrating wisdom.
Rooted in Christ, we blossom and bloom as Christ's people,
shining his light, healing and reconciling the world.*

***SINGING A HYMN** *God of Abraham and Sarah*

Black Hymnal 20