

GATHERING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

RECEIVING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio Excerpt from *Cello Sonata in F# minor, 1st movement* Huré

GATHERING WITH SONG *Come and Fill* Taize #28

GATHERING WITH PRAYER Jennifer Wellwood

Willing to experience aloneness,
I discover connection everywhere;
Turning to face my fear,
I meet the warrior who lives within;
Opening to my loss,
I am given unimaginable gifts;
Surrendering into emptiness,
I find fullness without end.

*Each condition I flee from pursues me.
Each condition I welcome transforms me
And becomes itself transformed
Into its radiant jewel-like essence.
I bow to the one who has made it so,
Who has crafted this Master Game;
To play it is pure delight,
To honor it is true devotion.*

***SINGING A HYMN** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* Insert

PRAYING TO AWAKEN FROM DORMANCY

Jesus said, “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground
and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat...”
What is Jesus asking of me? What is Jesus asking of you?

*In this waiting-to-blossom time of year,
may the seeds of our quieted spirits not remain mere seeds,
but be transformed from internal dormancy,
to external expressions of redemptive potential.
Open the eyes of our hearts and minds,
to consider the unlimited ways for us
to participate in the ongoing process of redemption.*

READING, REFLECTING, AND PRAYING

READING FROM THE BIBLE John 12: 20-33

REFLECTING Rev. Dr. Jo Jensen

SHARING WITH ONE ANOTHER

PRAYING WITH ONE ANOTHER

PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED (debts and debtors)

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Kyrie Eleison* Schubert

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio Excerpt from *Cello Sonata No.1, 2nd movement* Fauré

***PRAISING GOD** tune: Old Hundredth

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. Amen.

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

DEPARTING TO PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

***SINGING A HYMN** *How Can I Keep from Singing?* Black Hymnal 476

***TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD**

***SENDING SONG** *This Is My Song* Black Hymnal 591

***PARTING WITH A SONG** *Now the Green Blade Rises*

The healing of our present woundedness may lie in recognizing and reclaiming the capacity we all have to heal each other, the enormous power in the simplest of human relationships: the strength of touch, the blessing of forgiveness, the grace of someone else taking you as you are and finding in you an unexpected goodness.

Rachel Naomi Remen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Round 3 of our Vision Process House Meetings takes place this week. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall for meetings that will take place Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening, and next Sunday after worship.

Bobby Jo Valentine will play a **benefit concert for Micah 6** this Wednesday, March 21, from 7-9pm, at 4th Tap Brewing Coop on 10615 Metric Blvd.

Nodie Murphy will sing in a performance Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" on Sunday, March 25th, 3 pm, in the Alma Thomas Theater at Southwestern University in Georgetown

Our **Good Friday Service** will be held on Friday, March 30, at 7:00 pm. Please join us as we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples and bear witness to his crucifixion on the cross. You'll be able to **park for free** in the Coop Garage that evening.

On **Easter**, April 1, we'll have our traditional **Easter brunch** after the service. Please bring your Easter favorites, which might include deviled eggs, steamed asparagus wrapped in ham, or anything else that you associate with Easter. We will also have a sign-up sheet for people willing to help with **clean-up** afterwards.

We have two upcoming **after-worship discussions**. On April 8, the folks gathering for "Notes to myself..." will meet after worship. On May 6, we'll gather to answer Jesus' question to his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?"

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.

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.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Council, Tue, March 27, 7:15 pm, at the Bodmans'

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Gail Christeson and John Goff
Scripture Reader Abbie Lundberg
Fellowship Host 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. 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

March 18, 2018
The Fifth Sunday of Lent



Love

It is Redemptive

Love has within it a redemptive power.

And there is a power there
that eventually transforms individuals.
Just keep being friendly to that person.

Just keep loving them,
and they can't stand it too long.
Oh, they react in many ways
in the beginning.
They react with guilt feelings,
and sometimes they'll hate you
a little more at that transition period,
but just keep loving them.

And by the power of your love
they will break down under the load.

That's love, you see.

It is redemptive.

Martin Luther King, Jr.