

## LIGHTING OUR ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Christ is the vine, we are the vine's branches,  
though where the vine ends and each branch begins  
who can say,  
for the vine extends itself through each branch,  
each branch is a continuation of the vine,  
Christ is in us, and we are in Christ,  
abiding in one another, inseparable.

*Through each branch, the vine bears fruit,  
through each one of us, Christ bears fruit.  
Abiding in one another, inseparable,  
Christ's joy is in us, and our joy is complete.*

The birth of Jesus, the Christ, the vine from which we branch,  
overwhelms us with joy, joy that bursts through our hearts in song!

## \*SINGING LIKE ANGELS

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;  
new life, new joy the Child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing,  
"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

## PRAYING FOR OURSELVES, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE WORLD

### REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

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.

### 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.

### PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED

debts and debtors

### RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes*

Larkin

## READING AND REFLECTING

### READING FROM THE BIBLE

Luke 1: 46-55

### REFLECTING

Greed damages what it desires and the gift of abundance always tests us.  
It invites us to a sense of proportion in how we see, feel and act. Without  
proportion, there is no balance, and the force of imbalance ultimately brings  
destruction. John O'Donohue

My heart is moved by all I cannot save:  
So much has been destroyed

I have to cast my lot with those  
Who age after age, perversely,  
With no extraordinary power,  
Reconstitute the world.

Adrienne Rich

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

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

Trio Improvisation on *People, Look East*

### \*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 *Canticle of the Turning*

Red Hymnal 100

### \*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

### \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

### \*SENDING SONG *Dona Nobis Pacem*

Red Hymnal 752

Sing first in unison, then as a round

### \*PARTING WITH A SONG

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A BIG thank you to everyone who pledged financial support for our church's 2019 ministry. If you plan on pledging, but haven't yet, **pledge forms** are available in the sanctuary.

Our **Adult Christian Education Class** meets at 10:00 am on the second floor. The class is currently watching "The Great Churches of Christianity" from The Great Courses.

Looking for a holiday gift for family and friends? Yourself? We have our very own calendars just in time for the holidays! These **calendars feature our gorgeous stained-glass windows** along with several other CCA-specific points of interest. This project is a Deacon-sponsored fund-raiser for the Remembrance Fund. They go on sale today for \$20.

After worship today, Mir Georgeson, a UT student and member of Labyrinth Student Ministry, will continue her 3-part series on **Neurodiversity and the Church**. This week's session will focus on accessibility.

**Tonight**, we will gather at 7 pm for our annual **Advent Candlelight Service**, and then enjoy hearty fellowship and holiday fare in Fellowship Hall.

We will be serving our **Christmas Open Door Dinner** this **Christmas Day**. We'll need folks to set up in the morning, serve at 12:30, and clean up after the meal. We're typically done by 3:00. As you make your Christmas plans, please consider providing some food, or helping to set up, serve, our clean up.

You can make your **financial contribution** to the Congregational Church of Austin **electronically** through **Tithe.ly**. You 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

Coord Council, Thu, Dec 27, 7:15 pm, at Whit Bodman's

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Debby Khort and Andrea Low  
Nursery Assistant Nancy Edison

## 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. Child care begins at 9:15 am for the parents of children attending choir practice or the Adult Christian Education Group.

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, UCC

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Rev. Tom VandeStadt Pastor  
Nodie Murphy Music Director  
Rev. Amelia Fulbright Labyrinth Student Ministry  
Jonathan Geer Piano  
Amy Harris Violin  
Robin Rosson 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



December 16, 2018  
Second Sunday of Advent: Joy

My heart sings out  
with joyful praise

## GATHERING

### WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

### ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

Bach

### GATHERING WITH SONG *Wait for the Lord*

Red Hymnal 90

Alternate trio alone and congregation singing three times

### \*REJOICING IN GOD

My soul magnifies the Lord!

*My spirit rejoices in God!*

Because God remembers the humble,  
*the everyday, down-to-earth, down-trodden people.*

The proud and arrogant who conspire together,  
*God scatters them.*

The rulers, sitting high and mighty in their executive suites,  
*God pulls them down from their thrones.*

The poor, living hand-to-mouth,  
*God pulls them up from poverty.*

Yes! I say it again! My soul magnifies the Lord!  
*My spirit rejoices in God! My heart sings out with joyful praise!*

### \*SINGING A HYMN *My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise*

Black Hymnal 106