

LIGHTING OUR ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Today is the beginning of Advent, the time of year when we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Each week of Advent, we will light an Advent candle. The first candle represents HOPE

*Light of the world, whom darkness cannot overcome,
may the challenges we face, and the times in which we live,
not dictate whether or not we speak and act from hope.
May a fierce and stubborn light of hope burn in our hearts,
so that we may do the work we're called to do,
and be the people we're called to be,
regardless of the challenges, despite the times.*

*SINGING LIKE ANGELS

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

READING, REFLECTING, AND PRAYING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Isaiah 40: 1-11 and Luke 1: 26-38

REFLECTING

SITTING SILENTLY TO REFLECT ON OUR LIVES

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

LIFTING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

Insert

SHARING CHRIST'S MEAL

REMEMBERING JESUS CHRIST'S WORDS

BLESSING THE MEAL

SINGING BEFORE THE MEAL *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*

Black Hymnal 331

SHARING THE MEAL AND PRAYING AT THE PRAYER NET

All who love Jesus Christ are invited to share in this meal. Please come forward as the trio plays, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and eat it as an act of holy union with Christ and his covenant community. If you would like to tie a prayer tie onto our prayer net, please do so after eating the bread you've dipped in the cup.

Trio Improvisation on *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

GIVING THANKS FOR THE MEAL

God who is inseparable from all that lives, whose spirit is the breath of life, we open our hearts to you and pour out our deepest gratitude. From the mystery of your creative spirit come sun and rain, soil and air, grain and grape, and all that sustains our lives. From the mystery of your life and light come Jesus and his self-giving love, and all who gather together seeking new life with him. We give you thanks for the bread and the juice, for Jesus and one another. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio Improvisation on *The Angel Gabriel*

*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 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

Red Hymnal 97

*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 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

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.

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. Beginning with December 2018, the calendars go through March 2020. That's 16 months! This project is a deacon-sponsored fund-raiser for the church. Watch for them to be on sale after worship on December 16th

After worship today, Mir Georgeson, a UT student and member of Labyrinth Student Ministry, will begin her 3-part series on **Neurodiversity and the Church**. The first session, Neurodiversity 101, will focus on cognitive disability and neurodiversity, and how neurodiversity has become a political movement within the broader disability rights movement.

On **Sunday, December 16**, 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

Deacons, Tue, Dec 4, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's
Trustees, Wed, Dec 6, 7:15 pm, at Reuel Nashes'

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Faye & Andy Dierksen
Nursery Assistant Lynne Lemley

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Adult Christian Education Group meets Sundays at 10:00 am on the 2nd 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 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. 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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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



December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent: Hope

A voice says, "Cry Out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

GATHERING

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Panis Angelicus*

Frank

GATHERING WITH SONG *Wait for the Lord*

Red Hymnal 90

Alternate trio alone and congregation singing three times

GATHERING WITH PRAYER

People who are hungry hope for food,
people who are thirsty hope for water,
people who are ill-clad hope for clothing,
people who are sick hope for healing,
people who are imprisoned hope for freedom,
people who are lonely hope for friendship,
people who are in exile hope for home,
people who are in darkness hope for light,
people who are without hope don't hope.

*We pray for those who hope, and those without hope.
We place our hope in Jesus Christ,
hoping we may live Christ-like lives on this earth,
hoping we may see Christ himself in those who hope,
hoping we may instill hope in those without hope.*

***SINGING A HYMN** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Red Hymnal 88