

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

And his name shall be called Emmanuel,
which means, "God is with us."

*Emmanuel, God,
we celebrate your presence with us,
and pour out our thanks to you.*

You are with us, amongst us, for us,
in the depths of our lives,
in the midst of our relationships.

*You are the sacred source
of our liberation, healing, and reconciliation.
Judging us with mercy, you forgive us, renew us,
and empower us to be your humble servants.*

Emmanuel, God,
your flame burns upon the Christ candle.

*May it burn within our hearts, day and night,
now and forever.*

***SINGING LIKE ANGELS** Sing four times: hope, peace, joy, love

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
new life, *new hope/peace/joy/love*, 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

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED

debts and debtors

RECEIVING A MUSICAL GIFT

Bill Beardall

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Luke 2: 1-20

REFLECTING

Perhaps the end of our search is to become as a little child again, to attain as an achievement of maturity the fresh openness and responsiveness that is the native grace of the child. Kenneth Patton

Sometime in your life, hope that you might see one starved person, the look on that person's face when the bread finally arrives. Hope that you might have baked it or bought it or even kneaded it yourself. For that look on that face, for you meeting those eyes across a piece of bread, you might be willing to lose a lot, or die a little, even. Daniel Berrigan

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Wexford Carol*

*PRAISING GOD

Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreun

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen

*DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS TO GOD

DEPARTING TO PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*SINGING A HYMN *Away in a Manger*

Red Hymnal 114

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Red Hymnal 113

*PARTING WITH A SONG *What Child Is This*

Special thanks to today's musicians: Barbara Burnham, piano;
Andy Ross, oboe; David Ross, alto recorder; Tony Rogers, cello.

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 New Year gift for family and friends? Yourself? We have our very own calendars just in time for the new year! 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.

The Congregational Church of Austin, UCC, will hold its **Annual Meeting** after worship on **Sunday, January 27, 2019**. We will discuss and vote on our 2019 budget, vote on those nominated for leadership positions, hear reports from our Vision Task Forces, and address any other business or issues brought before the church.

This **Spring**, we will gather folks together to **read and discuss** the book, ***Climate Church, Climate World, How People of Faith Must Work for Change***, by **Jim Antal**, **Forward by Bill McKibben**. Jim Antal is the United Church of Christ's premiere advocate for addressing climate change, and he was instrumental in the UCC's historic decision to divest from the fossil fuel industry. His book addresses the urgent need to respond to climate change, and ways churches can respond. So, start reading, and await further details for discussing, and hopefully, acting

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

Trustees, Thu, Jan 3, 7:15 pm, at Reuel Nash's
Deacons, Tue, Jan 8, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Gail Christeson and John Goff
Nursery Assistant Jaime Hadley

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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Rev. Tom 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

December 30, 2018

The Sunday After Christmas

Hark!

The Herald Angels Sing



GATHERING

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

GATHERING WITH SONG *There Are Angels Hov'ring 'Round*

There are angels hov'ring 'round...

To carry the tidings home...

And Jesus bids us come...

GATHERING WITH PRAYER

There are angels hov'ring 'round,
more so than we'll ever know,
messengers bearing messages,
Good News, warnings, guidance, mysteries.
May we be alert and sensitive,
open, receptive, and responsive,
to the countless forms the messengers take,
and to the messages they convey.

*And may we be alert
to the countless messages we convey,
by how we respond
when Jesus bids us come.*

***SINGING A HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Red Hymnal 133