

## PRAYING TO LIVE OUT OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Baptism is a sacred ritual through which we come to live in holy union with Jesus Christ, take our place in his living body, and play our part in his liberating, healing, and reconciling ministry.

As a sacred ritual, baptism enacts the death and shedding of the old, and the birth and rising of the new, all in response to Jesus Christ's call to follow him, by relinquishing our way, and living his Way.

Baptized into the Body of Christ, we are supported by the Holy Spirit in our life of continuous shedding and renewal, and by the power of the spiritual community—our sisters, brothers, siblings in Christ.

*We recall our baptism today by recommitting ourselves to Christ,  
to one another,  
to the Body of Christ around the world,  
and to the salvation and renewal of the world,  
this world that God so loves, this world that we so love.*

*May we shed from our hearts and minds  
the fears, distractions, and habits  
that prevent us from following Christ,  
and may we birth new ways of being and doing,  
ways that more closely reflect the Way of Christ,  
in our time and place.*

*In Christ's name, we pray, Amen.*

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

### REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

### LIFTING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER

### PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED debts and debtors

### RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Cantate Domino* Hassler/arr. Robinson

O Sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord all the Earth.  
Sing unto the Lord, bless His name; show forth His salvation from day to day.  
Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people.

## READING AND REFLECTING

### READING FROM THE BIBLE

Luke 3: 1-22

### REFLECTING

The dehumanizing tactics and rhetoric of war have transformed the border into a permanent zone of exception, where some of the most vulnerable people on earth face death and disappearance on a daily basis, where children have been torn from their parents to send the message *You are not safe here, you are not welcome*. The true crisis at the border is not one of surging crossings or growing criminality, but of our own increasing disregard for human life. To describe what we are seeing as a "crisis," however, is to imply that our current moment is somehow more horrifying than those that set the stage for it—moments that, had we allowed ourselves to see them and be horrified by them, might have prevented our arrival here in the first place.

Francisco Cantu

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

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

Trio "Allemanda" from *Sonata in D Major*

Vitali

### \*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 *Sing of God Made Manifest*

Red Hymnal 156

### \*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

### \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING SONG *Many Are the Lightbeams*

Black Hymnal 163

\*PARTING WITH A SONG *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **adult Christian education class** is meeting at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings to watch "The Great Churches of Christianity" from The Great Courses. The class meets in the adult CE room on the second floor.

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.

**Liz Nash** will once again be going to **Alegría in El Salvador** the last week of January to work with our friend and partner, Oscar Rodriguez. Liz will wire money through a community group in San Salvador to support the work in Alegria. **We welcome and encourage your donations.** In order to get the money to Oscar, donations need to be given through our church, designated to the El Salvador work, **on or before today Sunday, January 13th**. Any donations after today will be used to buy school supplies, dental supplies, or an additional cash donation to be hand carried on the trip.

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

Coord Council Potluck, Thu, Jan 17, at John Goff's

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Andy and Faye Dierksen  
Nursery Assistant Lynne Lemley

## 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  
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

January 13, 2019

The Season of Epiphany  
Change Your Heart  
And Bear Fruit



## GATHERING

### ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio "Largo" from *Sonata in D Major*

Vitali

### 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 people at our border,

people suffering, people traumatized,

people seeking safety, protection, care, asylum.

With the eye of your mind, the eye of your heart,

can you picture these people?

Can you see the suffering in their faces, in their bodies,

in their hearts and minds, in their spirits and souls?

Can you suffer a bit with them, suffer for them? Feel your pain for them?

These people at our border, these people suffering,

they are calling out to us. Listen carefully.

As you picture their faces, their bodies,

as you feel your pain for them, listen carefully.

What are they saying to you, to us?

How will you respond? What must we do?

\***SINGING A HYMN** *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice* Red Hymnal 163