

## PRAYING FOR GOD'S MERCY ON US ALL

Ann Weems

O God, we pray this day:  
for all who have a song they cannot sing,  
for all who have a burden they cannot bear,  
for all who live in chains they cannot break,  
for all who wander homeless and cannot return,  
for those who are sick and for those who tend them,  
for those who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,  
for those who live in hunger  
and for those who will not share their bread,  
for those who are misunderstood  
and for those who misunderstand,  
for those who are captives  
and for those who are captors,  
for those whose words of love are locked within their hearts  
and for those who yearn to hear those words.  
Have mercy upon these, O God.  
Have mercy on us all.

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

### REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

In silence and stillness, reflect on who has arrived for worship this morning.  
What thoughts and feelings, joys and concerns, have you brought with you?

### 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.

### LIFTING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER

### PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED

debts and debtors

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *The Rose/Lo, How a Rose* arr. Johnson  
Amy Harris, soprano

## READING AND REFLECTING

### READING FROM THE BIBLE

John 2: 1-12

### REFLECTING

Scripture reminds us, constantly, that we are not meant to wait for salvation but to watch for it today. Heaven, then, is not a promise we await, but a practice we fully engage in...The ground beneath our feet is the kingdom of God. It's not around the corner, it *is* the corner. Kinship is not a reward bestowed at the end. It's here, it's now, it's at hand and within our reach. And this moment is the only one available to us. Gregory Boyle

With Thy Sweet Soul, this soul of mine,  
Hath mixed as water doth with wine,  
Who can the Wine and the Water part,  
Or me and thee when we combine?

Rumi

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

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

Trio *Air*

Mattheson

### \*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 *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore, I have continued in my faithfulness to you.

Jeremiah 31: 3

## 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 financial donations**, which will be used to buy school and dental supplies, and other items needed to support the project.

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

Deacons, Tue, Feb 5, 7:15 pm, Joy Penticuff's  
Trustees, Thu, Feb 7, 7:15 pm, Reuel Nash's

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Faye & Andy Dierksen  
Nursery Assistant Rachel Dietz

## 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 20, 2019

The Season of Epiphany

Known, Loved,  
And Held By God

UNITED  
CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



## GATHERING

### ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio "Andante" from *Violin Concerto, Op. 64*

Mendelssohn

### 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

To feel ourselves embraced by God,

the love of our life,

and intimate with God,

our soul mate,

trusting God completely,

removing the masks we show the world,

revealing to God who we are,

sharing with God our most guarded secrets,

our hungers, our thirsts, our fears, our hopes, our regrets,

and hearing God whisper into our soul,

I love you with an everlasting love.

*May we know this joy, in our bones, our hearts, our souls,  
this joy of being known, and loved, and held by God.*

\***SINGING A HYMN** *I Will Call Upon the Lord*

Red Hymnal 621