

## READING AND REFLECTING

**READING FROM THE BIBLE** Matthew 2: 1-12 Bryan Rutherford

## REFLECTING

## SHARING OUR LIVES IN PRAYER, SHARING CHRIST'S MEAL

### REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

### SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### LIFTING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER

### PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER Insert

### REMEMBERING JESUS CHRIST'S WORDS

### BLESSING THE MEAL Inspired by Wendell Berry

“To live, we must daily break the body and shed the blood of Creation. When we do this knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently, it is a sacrament. When we do it ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, destructively, it is a desecration. In such desecration, we condemn ourselves to spiritual and moral loneliness, and others to want.”

We long to be more sacramental in our living,  
and we confess the ways we participate in desecrating Creation.

*Jesus Christ, sacrament of God, just and righteous in all ways,  
breaks his body, sheds his blood, and offers himself to us,  
to forgive us, reconcile us, and renew us,  
that we ourselves may become more just and righteous.*

By receiving the sacrament of the bread and cup,  
may our longing to live more knowingly and lovingly,  
more skillfully and reverently, more sacramentally  
in this Creation and with this Creation, be fulfilled.

*God of Creation, bless the bread and the cup we are about to receive,  
and bless us as the bread and the juice enters us, and becomes part of us,  
that we ourselves may be a more Christ-like part of your Creation.*

**SINGING BEFORE THE MEAL** *I Come With Joy* Black Hymnal 349

## 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 *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

## 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 *Il Est Ne, le Divin Enfant*

### \*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** *Who Would Think That What Was Needed*  
Black Hymnal 153

### \*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

### \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

**\*SENDING SONG** *Many are the Lightbeams*

**\*PARTING WITH A SONG** *See The Little Baby*

## 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.

Still looking for a New Year's 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

Deacons, Tue, Jan 8, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's  
Coord Council, Thu, Jan 17, Potluck at John Goff's

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Darcy and Keith Beresheim  
Nursery Attendant Shaela Rutherford

## 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

408 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (512) 472-2370 office  
Austin, TX 78705-5214 (512) 472-1175 fax

[ucausti@swbell.net](mailto:ucausti@swbell.net)  
<http://congregationalchurchofaustin.org>

Rev. Tom VandeStadt Pastor  
Nodie Murphy Music Director  
Rev. Amelia Fulbright Labyrinth Student Ministry  
Karen White 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 6, 2019

The First Sunday of Epiphany

Gold  
Frankincense  
Myrrh

## GATHERING

### ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio "Pastoral Symphony" from *The Messiah*

Handel

### 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 AS CHRIST'S DISCIPLES

Unlike our spiritual ancestors,  
who lived in a distant time and place,  
we have no experience with greedy and ruthless kings,  
who oppress and exploit their subjects,  
or cultic priests in the Temple,  
who sacrifice flesh and blood at the altar.

*Yet, like our spiritual ancestors,  
we ache for justice and righteousness,  
we seek forgiveness and reconciliation,  
we long for the renewal of our covenant with God,  
we look for signs of God's presence with us,  
and we see God with us in Jesus Christ.*

### \*SINGING A HYMN *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Red Hymnal 151