

PRAYING FOR HEARTS OF FLESH

A new heart I will give you,
and a new spirit I will put within you;
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone,
and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36: 26

A heart of stone—
hard, impervious,
without a pulse, unresponsive.

A heart of flesh—
soft, open,
pulsing with life, responsive.

*We pray for hearts of flesh, so that,
rather than resisting God's Spirit,
we may respond to God's Spirit,
rather than resisting love and wisdom,
we may love freely and live wisely,
rather than resisting warnings of our destructive ways,
we may heed them and respond appropriately,
rather than resisting the word of hope,
we may live into our hope.*

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 *Look at the World*

Rutter

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Ezekiel 3: 4-11; 16-21

REFLECTING

How, indeed, is a mind to become conscious of its own bias when that bias springs from a communal flight from understanding and is supported by the whole texture of a civilization? No problem is at once more delicate and more profound and perhaps more pressing. Bernard Lonergan

The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time. They are kneeling with hands clasped that we might act with restraint, that we may leave room for the life that is destined to come. Terry Tempest

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio "Allegro giocoso" from *Trio Sonata in G Major*

Loeillet

*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 *Touch the Earth Lightly*

Black Hymnal 569

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *The Lord's Peace*

Zinter

*PARTING WITH A SONG *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

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.

On **Sunday, February 24, Bill Campbell and Victoria Li** will give a presentation after worship on their trip to **Israel and Palestine** in 2018.

On **Sunday, March 3, Vision Task Force 4**, which is studying the development of our neighborhood, and discerning the possibilities this creates for our church, will host a **Congregational Meeting** after worship to share information, answer questions, and facilitate continued dialogue over our church's vision and future.

On **Sunday, March 3, Waterloo Trio** will perform a concert at CCA. Doors will open at 6pm and the music will start at 7pm. Please bring lots of food and drink to share with everyone in attendance. We look forward to enjoying an evening of music, food and fellowship with you all!

From **March 10 to April 7**, Whit Bodman will lead our **Lenten Program**: "What I Believe, Don't, And Why." The study, reflection, and discussion series will focus on Marcus Borg's, *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*, and will be supplemented by other short readings.

After Easter, 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**.

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, Thur, Feb 28, 7:15 pm, at Whit Bodman's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Keith Beresheim and Darcy Grostick
Nursery Assistant Shaela Rutherford

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

Nodie Murphy

Rev. Amelia Fulbright

Jonathan Geer

Amy Harris

Robin Rosson

Amy Kent

Sam Clubb

Donna Cravens

Victor Cardenas

Pastor

Music Director

Labyrinth Student Ministry

Piano

Violin

Cello

Sunday School Teacher

Nursery Attendant

Office Manager

Custodian

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

An Open and Affirming Church
Of The United Church of Christ

February 17, 2019

The Season of Epiphany

I Have Made You A Sentinel

GATHERING

One of the Just Men came to Sodom, determined to save its inhabitants from sin and punishment. Night and day he walked the streets and markets preaching against greed and theft, falsehood and indifference. In the beginning, people listened and smiled ironically. Then they stopped listening; he no longer even amused them. The killers went on killing; the wise men kept silent, as if there were no just man in their midst. One day, a child, moved by compassion for the unfortunate preacher, approached him with these words: "Poor stranger, you shout; you expend yourself body and soul; don't you see that it is hopeless?"

"Yes, I see," answered the Just Man

"Then why do you go on?"

"I'll tell you why. In the beginning I thought I could change human beings. Today I know I cannot. If I still shout today, if I still scream, it is to prevent them from changing me."

Tales of Hasidim

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio "Andante cantabile" from *Trio in #4 in C Major*

Mozart

GATHERING AS CHRIST'S DISCIPLES

***SINGING A HYMN** *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Black Hymnal 31

