

PRAYING TO GOD

O Lord, gracious and good and forever abiding,
how can you suffer us, your lukewarm people,
who in spite of your sweet persuasions blow neither hot nor cold?
How can you wait upon us who distrust your love and rebuff your mercy,
refusing your summons from fear to trust, from sin to grace, and from despair to joy?
How can you bear with us, who day by day live listless before you?
We choose Caesar, embrace mammon, and grumble about the state of things.
Shake us down, down to earth, and lift us to the kingdom vision.
Let your Word subvert our pretending.
Help our prayers speak out of our deepest needs and august hopes.
By love, persuade us; by forgiveness, heal us;
by mercy resurrect us, by faith empower us.
You are our God. We are your people.

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 *Just As I Am*

Gustafson

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Ephesians 3: 14-21
Proverbs 8: 12-31

REFLECTING

Rev. Dr, Whit Bodman

Return home to within: sweep your Houses all.
The Groat is there, the little Leaven is there,
the Grain of the Mustard Seed you will see which the Kingdom of God is
like...
And here you will see your Teacher, not removed into a Corner,
but present when you are upon your Beds and about your Labour,
convincing, instructing, leading, correcting, judging
and giving Peace to all that love and follow Him.

Richard Howgill, ca 1670

*SINGING A HYMN *Precious Lord*

Red Hymnal 834

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *St. Patrick Breastplate*

*PRAISING GOD

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

*DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS TO GOD

DEPARTING TO PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*SINGING A HYMN *For the Healing of the Nations*

Red Hymnal 346

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *This Is My Song*

Black Hymnal 591

*PARTING WITH A SONG *The God of Abraham Praise*

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.

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.

On **Saturday, April 27**, **George Hetrick, Robin Chapman, and Tom VandeStadt** will once again ride the **Hill Country Ride for AIDS**. This is a fundraiser to raise funds for organizations helping people live with HIV/AIDS. If you would like to support their **fundraising efforts**, please go to <https://hillcountryride.greatfeats.com/> and click the Donate tab, then click the Donate to a Rider tab, then type in the name of George Hetrick, Robin Chapman, or Tom VandeStadt and you'll get to their fundraising page.

On **Sunday, May 12 and May 19**, we will discuss the book, ***Climate Church, Climate World, How People of Faith Must Work for Change***, by Jim Antal, **Forward by Bill McKibben**.

Amelia, Jonathan, and Vivienne welcomed **baby George** on February 27th, and we'd like to support the family as they settle into life as a family of four. If you'd like to help **provide them a meal** (either by taking it yourself or donating money or sending a gift card), use the following link to sign up. Thanks! Here's the link to the meal train signup: <https://mealtrain.com/4wn3z5>

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, Wed, March 13, 7:15 pm, at Joy Pentecuff's
Coord Council, Tue, March 26, 7:15 pm, at Whit Bodman's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Keith and Darcy Beresheim
Nursery Assistant Nancy Edison

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



March 10, 2019
First Sunday of Lent
Ashes to Ashes
Dust to Dust

GATHERING

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio Improvisation on *Out of the Depths*

GATHERING WITH SONG *Gathered Here*

Black Hymnal 742

Once in unison, twice as a round, then repeat "Spirit, draw near."

*GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

The season of Lent opens, and opens us

To Confession, an accounting of our thoughts,
acts, and neglects,

To Petition, an accounting of what we need,

To Thanksgiving, an accounting of what we have received.

Precious Lord, take our hands

Through the storm, through the night

Lead us all to thy light

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

The season of Lent begins, and we begin

A time to examine what it means to be faithful.

Precious Lord, take our hands

Be our comfort, ease our fear

Be not far, linger near,

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

***SINGING A HYMN** *Rejoice, the Lord is King!* Red Hymnal 363