

## GATHERING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

### RECEIVING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Vidui*

Bloch

### GATHERING WITH SONG

*Gathered Here in the Mystery of This Hour*

Black Hymnal 742

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

### LIVING BY GOD'S LOVE

Your love, God, is better than life; your steadfast love.

*Continuous love, persistent. Never-ending love, unstoppable.*

Your love, God, is better than life; your steadfast love.

*Yet you bring your love to life, God. By your love, we live.*

Your love, God, is better than life; your steadfast love.

*May we who live by your love, love all who live.*

**\*SINGING A HYMN** *Let Us with a Gladsome Mind*

Red Hymnal 31

### PREPARING FOR CONFESSION

As we continue our journey through Lent,

we practice together healthy and wholesome confession,  
confession based on love and wisdom, mercy and compassion,  
confession that opens us to the sacred power of healing and reconciliation,  
within ourselves, between ourselves and others, between ourselves and God.

*We look at our lives and confess our imperfect human condition,  
our self-centered ways, our limited perspectives, our illusions,  
our fears and anxieties, our shortcomings and mistakes,  
the hurtful words we say, the damaging things we do.*

*Rather than become mired in unhealthy judgment and debasing shame,  
we simply see who we are and how we are,  
and confess this to ourselves, to God, and when helpful, to others,  
trusting always in God's grace and life-transforming love.*

### SILENT PRAYER AND CONFESSION

## READING, REFLECTING, AND PRAYING

### READING FROM THE BIBLE

Refrain *In God Alone*

Psalm 63

814 Red Hymnal

### REFLECTING

### REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

### SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### LIFTING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER

### PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED

debts and debtors

### SINGING A HYMN

*Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

Red Hymnal 314

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

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

Trio *Adagio*

Telemann

### \*PRAISING GOD

Tune: Old Hundreth

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** *O God, You Are My God Alone*

Red Hymnal 696

### \*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

### \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

**\*SENDING SONG** *This Is My Song*

Black Hymnal 591

**\*PARTING WITH A SONG** *O God, How We Have Wandered*

To be rooted is perhaps the most important  
and least recognized  
need of the human soul.

Simone Weil

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Amelia, Jonathan, and Vivienne** welcomed **baby George** on February 27th, and we are supporting 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>

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.

**After worship today**, Whit Bodman will continue to lead our **Lenten Program**: "What I Believe, Don't, And Why." The study, reflection, and discussion series is focused on Marcus Borg's, *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*, and supplemented by other short readings that are available on our church website.

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 26**, we will gather after worship to discuss the book, *Climate Church, Climate World, How People of Faith Must Work for Change*, by **Jim Antal, Forward by Bill McKibben**.

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Council, Tue, March 26, 7:15 pm, at Whit Bodman's  
Trustees, Thu, April 4, 7:15 pm, at Reuel Nashe's  
Deacons, Wed, April 10, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Gail Christeson and John Goff  
Nursery Assistant Jaime Hadley

## 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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<http://congregationalchurchofaustin.org>

Rev. Tom VandeStadt	Pastor
Nodie Murphy	Music Director
Rev. Amelia Fulbright	Labyrinth Student Ministry
Dr. Maimy Fong	Piano
Amy Harris	Violin
Robin Rosson	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 24, 2019

My soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.



## THE SEASON OF LENT

*Lucho:* We stayed in a cave that night. Memo and Angel went inside and I stayed in front. Those *pinches* vampires [referring to bats] wouldn't let me sleep. [laughing]. They kept flying all around my head. We got up at 6 A.M. and started walking. We were out of water at this point, but as soon as I saw Elephant Head, I knew where we were because I had worked out there before. We passed a golf course, but couldn't drink from the sprinklers because the water has chemicals in it. There was a house under construction. We got to the house at like 3 P.M. We soaked ourselves under that hose! We were dying of thirst. I was hallucinating at that point. We were surrounded by dirt but I kept seeing water everywhere in the desert.

*Memo:* Lucho kept saying he could see water, but there was no water.

*Lucho:* It was just dirt. There was nothing.

*Jason:* This was after four or five days?

*Memo:* Yeah, we had no food, no water, nothing. Just an empty bottle.

From *The Land of Open Graves*, by Jason De Leon