

GATHERING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

RECEIVING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Lento*

Couperin

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."

GATHERING WITH PRAYER

May our hearts be open,

as we gather as the church of Jesus Christ.

May our hearts be grateful,

as we give thanks for the gift of life.

May our hearts be contrite,

as we sincerely confess our sin.

May our hearts be transformed,

as we accept Christ's mercy and forgiveness.

May our hearts be bold,

as we minister in Christ's name.

***SINGING A HYMN** *How Blest, Those Whose Transgressions*

Red Hymnal 446

CONFESSING OUR SIN

We confess those times our hearts tighten and constrict,

those times our hearts harden against others, become cold.

We confess those times our hearts are ungrateful,

those times our hearts feel no appreciation for the gift of life.

We confess those times our hearts are not contrite,

those times our hearts are not remorseful or repentant for the harm we've done.

We confess those times our hearts are stubborn,

those times our hearts are obstinate, refusing to be transformed.

We confess those times our hearts are timid,

those times we fearfully turn away from those needing our attention.

READING, REFLECTING, AND PRAYING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Refrain *Sing Out, My Soul*

Psalm 32

646 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

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Depth of Mercy*

Gustafson

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Elegie*

Massenet

*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** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* Red Hymnal 435

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

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

Black Hymnal 591

***PARTING WITH A SONG** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

Stories are what death thinks he puts an end to.

He can't understand that they end in him,

but they don't end with him.

Ursula LeGuin

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.

We will hold our **Good Friday Service** on **Friday, April 19**, at 7:00 pm. In this service, we remember Jesus' last supper, arrest, and crucifixion, and ponder how these events give meaning to our lives and our world today.

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 5**, we will celebrate our joint youth group ministry with University Baptist Church and University Christian Church with our **joint youth group service** at University Christian Church.

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

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 Andrea Low and Debby Khort
Nursery Assistant Rene Slataper

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
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 31, 2019

I did not hide my iniquity

I said, I will confess
my transgressions

THE SEASON OF LENT

Listen to us, Thy children:

our faces dark with doubt are made a mockery in Thy Sanctuary...

Bewildered we are and passion-tossed,

mad with the madness of a mobbed and mocked and murdered people;

straining at the armposts of Thy throne,

we raise our shackled hands and charge Thee, God,

by the bones of our stolen fathers,

by the tears of our dead mothers,

by the very blood of Thy crucified Christ:

What meaneth this?"

Surely, Thou too are not white, O Lord,

a pale, heartless, bloodless thing.

Forgive the thought! Forgive these wild blasphemous words!

Thou art still the God of our black fathers.

W E B Du Bois, *O Silent God*

