

## CELEBRATING CHRIST'S RESURRECTION WITH PRAYER, SONGS, AND FLOWERS

### PRAYING TO BLOSSOM WITH NEW LIFE

Spirit of life, like flowers responding to the light of the dawning sun—stretching, straining, opening, blooming—our hearts blossom in your presence.

*Open us to encounter your Spirit, your Power, your Sacred Energy. Open us to experience life in a new way, growing not from the conditions of our past, but springing up completely new, like a virgin birth, like life from death.*

Free our hearts and minds from the cages they inhabit. Lead us on an exodus far beyond the boundaries of what we believe possible for our lives. Pull us over the edges of the horizons we now see. Stretch us beyond the feasible, the likely, the predictable, the necessary. Surprise us in ways we cannot imagine.

*Shine upon us, Spirit of life. Draw us out of our tombs. Free us from the powers that close our hearts and minds, and hold our spirits and souls in captivity.*

God of life and new life, may we desire new life so deeply, so fiercely, and so passionately that the words of faith we proclaim today become the mantra of our daily living, taking root within us, blossoming as a new reality.

*And may we touch the earth, and all within it, with the fruit of the new life we bear, bringing flowers to bloom on crosses we encounter wherever we go. In the spirit of the living Christ, we pray. Amen.*

### SINGING AND PLACING FLOWERS ON THE CROSS

*In The Bulb There Is a Flower* Red Hymnal 250

The flowers appear on earth, the time of singing has come,  
And the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom;  
They give forth fragrance.

Song of Solomon 2: 12-13

*Because You Live O Christ* Red Hymnal 249

## PRAYING, READING, AND 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 *The Morning Trumpet*  
White/Sacred Harp; arr. Wetzler

READING FROM THE BIBLE Luke 24: 1-12

### REFLECTING

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

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

Trio *Allegretto* Mozart

\*PRAISING GOD Tune: Lasst uns erfren

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 *Christ Is Alive!* Red Hymnal 246

### \*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

### \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING SONG "Hallelujah!" from *Messiah* Handel

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth,  
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord,  
And of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever.  
King of kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

## 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.

We will host a **Memorial Service** to remember, honor, and give thanks for the life of **Florence Castle** on **Saturday, April 27, at 3 pm.**

The **spring meeting** of the **Heart of Texas Association** will be on **Saturday, May 4th, 2019 at St. Paul UCC in Corpus Christi.** St. Paul is located at 5525 Lipas Blvd., Corpus Christi. Those of you who cannot drive the distance to attend in person will be able to attend from 11 am to about 12:30 pm (the portion before lunch) via a Zoom videoconference connection. See Liz or Reuel Nash for details on the zoom connection.

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, beginning at **10:45 am.** A luncheon will follow.

On **Tuesday, May 14,** we will participate in an **Iftar**, the dinner with which Muslims break their daily fast during the holy season of Ramadan. We will gather with folks from the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest, University Christian Church, and University Baptist church, in the Fellowship Hall of University Christian Church. Members of the Dialogue Institute, a Muslim organization in Austin, will provide all the special food. This will be a chance to talk with Muslim neighbors about Ramadan, their fellowship and more. **We will gather at 7:15 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

Coord Council, Tue, April 30, 7:15 pm, at Whit Bodman's  
Trustees, Thu, May 2, 7:15 pm, at Reuel Nashes  
Deacons, Wed, May 8, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff'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 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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Rev. Tom VandeStadt Pastor  
Nodie Murphy Music Director  
Rev. Amelia Fulbright Labyrinth Student Ministry  
Jonathan Geer 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



April 21, 2019

Easter Sunday

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen, indeed!

## OPENING TO THE PRESENCE AND THE POWER

### ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF THE RISEN CHRIST

Trio *The Rejoicing*

Handel

\***REJOICING WITH SONG** *The Strife Is O'er*

Red Hymnal 236

### \***PROCLAIMING OUR FAITH**

Christ is risen!

*Christ is risen, indeed!*

May these words be more than a liturgy, a doctrine,  
a churchy phrase, or an article of faith  
we dust off and shout loudly on Easter.

May we truly open our eyes and ears, our hearts and minds,  
our spirits and souls, to the reality of God's liberating power  
at work in and around us.

*God of life and new life, God of mystery and miracle,  
breathe fresh life into well-worn phrases,  
a new spirit into words that risk becoming clichés.*

*Open us to your presence that transcends our thinking and speaking,  
and to your power that liberates people from bondage,  
and resurrects Christ from the grave.*

*Christ is risen, indeed!*

\***SINGING WITH JOY** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Red Hymnal 232