

RECEIVING A BLESSING ON OUR BODIES

John O'Donohue

May your body be blessed.

May you realize that your body is a faithful and beautiful friend
of your soul.

And may you be peaceful and joyful and recognize that your senses are
sacred thresholds.

May you realize that holiness is mindful, gazing, feeling, hearing, and
touching.

May your senses gather you and bring you home.

May your senses always enable you to celebrate the universe and the
mystery and possibilities in your presence here.

May the Eros of the Earth bless you.

May our bodies be blessed.

*They are our home in the universe, vessel of our soul,
temple of the Holy Spirit, and the hands and feet by which Christ is
present to the world.*

*Through our bodies, we experience the joys and pleasures
of God's creation, the aches and pains of impermanence,
and the dissolution of death.*

*May we treat our bodies as sacraments of God's grace, as visible
expressions of God's liberating, healing, and reconciling love.*

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 *Christ Lay in Death's Strong Bonds*

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Acts of the Apostles 9: 36-43

REFLECTING

Radical amazement refers to all of reality; not only to what we see, but also
to the very act of seeing as well as to our own selves, to the selves that see
and are amazed at their ability to see...In using the term mystery we do not
mean any particular esoteric quality that may be revealed to the initiated,
but the essential mystery of being as being, the nature of being as God's
creation out of nothing, and there, something which stands beyond the
scope of human comprehension. We do not come upon it only at the climax
of thinking or in observing strange, extraordinary facts but in the startling
fact that there are facts at all: being, the universe, the unfolding of time.

Abraham Joshua Heschel

How did the rose ever open its heart
and give to this world all its beauty?

It felt the encouragement of light against its being.

Otherwise we all remain too afraid.

Hafez

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Allegro*

Vivaldi

*PRAISING GOD

Tune: Lasst uns erfueren

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 *We Are One in the Spirit*

Red Hymnal 300

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Lutkin

*PARTING WITH A SONG *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our church Moderator, John Goff, has called a **Congregational Meeting** after worship **today, Sunday, May 19** for the purpose of discussing the possibility of the temporary hosting of a refugee family as they await more permanent placement.

It's that time again! While the choir is on hiatus during the summer, our Sunday services will be enriched by substituting **worship gifts** for the choral anthems. Worship gifts are whatever you want to share with the congregation about your faith journey. It can be a favorite hymn, a poem you wrote or that you discovered, music that you play or enjoy, experiences you have had that have enlightened you. We ask that your gift be no longer than five minutes. **Nodie** will be armed with her infamous clipboard, welcoming your contributions.

On **Thursday, May 23, Austin Interfaith** will hold a training on the issues on which AI is working. The training will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at one of the University-area churches.

Those moved to discuss the **climate and biodiversity crisis**, and how we may respond to it, will gather after worship on **Sunday, May 26**. Some of us have read Jim Antal's book, *Climate Church, Climate World, How People of Faith Must Work for Change*, but you're encouraged to participate even if you haven't read the book.

The net with colorful ties hanging on the door towards the front and left of our sanctuary is our **Prayer Net**. Prayer ties are located in the basket next to the net. If you would like to offer a prayer and tie and prayer tie onto the net, you are more than welcome to do so.

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

Trustees, Thu, June 6, 7:15 pm, at Reuel Nashes
Deacons, Wed, June 12, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Andy and Faye Dierksen
Nursery Assistant Lynne Lemley

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

May 19, 2019

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Be Willing To Act
As A Balm For All Wounds

Etty Hillesum



GATHERING

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio "Poco adagio" from *Trio in G*

Haydn

*GATHERING WITH THANKFUL HEARTS

O. Eugene Pickett

For the expanding grandeur of Creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond galaxies, filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations: We give thanks this day.

*For this fragile planet earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons.
For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements: We give thanks this day.*

For our human community, our common past and future hope, our oneness transcending all separation, our capacity for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression: We give thanks this day.

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding of views not shared. For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who have lived so that others may live in dignity and freedom: We give thanks this day.

For human liberty and sacred rites; for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose: We give thanks this day.

We pray that we may live not by our fears but by our hopes, not by our words but by our deeds: We give thanks this day.

*SINGING A HYMN *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Red Hymnal 248