

DECLARING OUR RESPONSIBILITY An Adaptation of the Earth Charter

As Christ’s disciples, we recognize that we stand at a critical moment in Earth’s history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future holds great peril and promise.

Recognizing that what the future holds depends on how we choose to act today, we pray: Jesus Christ, guide us in our choices, that we may live toward the promise.

We realize that to move forward, we must seek Christ’s wisdom and recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms, we are one human family and Earth community sharing a common destiny.

Recognizing the blessing of diversity within God’s creation, we pray: through Christ, may we realize holy union with all the other members of the earth community.

Seeking first God’s shalom, we know we must work diligently with others in our community and throughout this planet to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.

Jesus Christ revealed God’s reign through his every word and deed, so we pray: Christ, empower us to articulate a vision of justice and peace, and to work for it.

Towards this end, it is imperative that we, Christ’s disciples and stewards of this Earth, declare our responsibility to God, one another, the greater community of life, and future generations.

We, who are Christ’s disciples and stewards of Earth, declare to God, one another, the greater community of life, and future generations: we are responsible for the well-being of planet Earth. We pray: Jesus Christ, empower us to fulfil our declaration of responsibility each and every day.

**PRAYING FOR OURSELVES,
ONE ANOTHER, AND THE WORLD**

REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED debts and debtors

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR’S GIFT *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Baloché

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE Acts of the Apostles 17: 16 - 32

REFLECTING

The basic problem is the way that humanity has taken up technology and its development according to an *undifferentiated and one-dimensional paradigm*. This paradigm exalts the concept of a subject who, using logical and rational procedures, progressively approaches and gains control over an external object. Pope Francis

To change our economics, science, religion, or our intimate relations with humans and non-humans, we must fundamentally change our consciousness, and in so doing fundamentally change the way we perceive the world. Derek Jensen

We are as intrinsic to our living world as the rivers and trees, woven of the same intricate flows of matter/energy and mind. Having evolved us into self-reflexive consciousness, the world can know itself through us, behold its own majesty, tell its own stories—and also respond to its own suffering. Joanna Macy

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD
Trio *Gavotte* Gretry

***PRAISING GOD** Tune: Tallis Canon
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** *God of Our Life* Red Hymnal 686

***TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD**

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

***PARTING WITH A SONG** *In Christ There Is No East or West*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Today after worship, we will gather to discuss the climate and biodiversity crisis, using Jim Antal's book, **Climate Church, Climate World, How People of Faith Must Work for Change**, as a starting point for our discussion. Even if you didn't read the book, please come to the discussion.

Nodie Murphy has been straining her vocal chords and her counting skills in preparation for the **San Gabriel Chorale's** performance of Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis" on **Sunday, June 2nd, at 4:00 pm** in the Alma Thomas Theater at Southwestern University.

The **church-wide picnic** has been rescheduled for **Saturday, June 15**. It will begin at noon at **Eastwood Park**, just north of Dean Keaton on Harris Park Street (the cross street is Bellevue Place). You can park on Dean Keaton if there isn't room on Harris Park.

A **fundraising campaign** has been launched to help hire an organizer to further the **Austin Sanctuary Network's** mission of protecting the human rights of immigrants. Three immigrants are in sanctuary at two member churches while being protected from deportation. Your tax-deductible donation at <https://www.crowdraise.com/asnorganizer> will help to give these immigrants in sanctuary their freedom. Any amount you can give is appreciated.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Trustees, Thursday, June 6, 7:15 pm, at Reuel Nash's
Deacons, Wednesday, June 12, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's
Coord Council, Thursday, July 25, 7:15 pm, TBD

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Ruth Koenig and Jo Jensen
Nursery Assistant Rachel Dietz

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
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 26, 2019

Sixth Sunday of Easter

In God
We Live, And Move,
And Have Our Being



GATHERING

To say God is always present is simply to acknowledge that God is reality, the breath, the life, the power, the love beneath, above, around, and in everything. This is divine transcendence immanently experienced: it is the magnificence and awesomeness of God with us. Sallie McFague

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Ashokan Farewell*

Ungar

*GATHERING WITHIN GOD'S PRESENCE

The breath, the life, the power, the love
beneath, above, around, in everything—
divine transcendence immanently experienced.

*O God, where can we go from your spirit,
where can we flee from your presence?*

From the highest to the lowest, from the furthest out there
to the deepest within, all reality is inseparable from you, God.

*May we love you, God, with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength,
and may we respond to reality with our love for you.*

*SINGING A HYMN *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Red Hymnal 15