

PRAYING FOR THE SPIRIT TO LOVE, HEAL, AND RENEW

Like Moses, the prophets, and Jesus Christ,
we look ahead to the Promised Land,
and proclaim the Kingdom of God.

*We envision a world healed and reconciled,
a world where swords become plowshares,
a world where children do not hunger for their daily bread,
a world where racism and prejudice no longer exist,
a world where the sick and injured are cared for,
a world where justice, righteousness, and peace reign.
We envision God's shalom, and as disciples of Jesus Christ,
we strive to bring this vision to life in and around us.*

God of promise, we thank you for your vision of a new world,
a vision that gives us hope and fills us with purpose.

*By the spirit of the living Christ,
we pray that we may love, heal, and renew your hurting world.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.*

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 A WORSHIP GIFT

Bill Beardall

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

John 1: 1-14

REFLECTING

There are two things in life that are uniquely yours. First, your existence, and secondly, your unique experience. Both occur in the realm of relationship in which a constellation of relationships shape, inform, influence, and ultimately determine (non-fatalistically), the quality (or lack thereof) of your life experience. This means, in effect, that life is the sum total of all the various relationships we will ever experience in our lifetime.

Rodney Eugene Alexander

In learning to take care of our relationships with lovers, friends, colleagues, helpers, and those whom we are helping, we are obligated to honor, rather than abuse, one another's feelings. This requires us to be really present, rather than acting out roles we have socialized, professionalized, or otherwise been taught to play. To be really present with another, we must experience ourselves as connected with the other in mutually empathic and empowering ways.

Carter Heywood

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio "Andante" from *Orpheus*

Gluck

*PRAISING GOD

Tune: Tallis (sing once together, then once as a 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. Amen.

*DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS TO GOD

DEPARTING TO PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*SINGING A HYMN *Will You Come and Follow Me*

Red Hymnal 726

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Black Hymnal 76

*PARTING WITH A SONG *Come! Live in the Light!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom VandeStadt has a new church e-mail address:
pastorccaucc@gmail.com

Our **adult Christian education class** meets at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings in the adult CE room on the second floor.

The Building Community Task Force (**Task Force 1**) is planning to roll out the "**Activity Directory**" on September 8. The Activity Directory is based on the survey many (over 40!) of us filled out near the start of the year, and will provide groupings of folks by common interest in various activities in order to facilitate group interactions outside of Sunday services. Before doing so, we wanted to give everyone one last chance to fill out the survey so that they can be included (if they wish) in the directory. We continue to have paper copies at usher's station which you can give to Faye Dierksen or John Goff.

On **Sunday, September 15**, after worship, we will gather for a **Congregational Meeting** to discuss and make a decision on the proposal to work with **Posada Esperanza** to **house and support** in our church building, for a period of several weeks to two months, a **family legally seeking asylum**. The team working on the planning and logistics will give a report, and then we will have our discussion and make our decision.

On **Sunday, September 29**, after worship, those of us reading the book **Evicted, Poverty and Profit in the American City**, by Matthew Desmond, will gather to discuss the book. Evicted won the Pulitzer Prize in 2017, and Mathew Desmond was the keynote speaker at the UCC General Synod this summer.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Trustees, Thurs, Sept 5, 7:15 pm, Reuel Nash's
Deacons, Wed, Sept 11, 7:15 pm, Joy Penticuff's
Coord Council, Wed, Sept 25, 7:15 pm, Whit Bodman's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Debby Khort and Andrea Low
Nursery Assistant Nancy Edison

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

August 25, 2019

Season of Pentecost

The Word Became Flesh and Blood
And Moved Into The Neighborhood

GATHERING TOGETHER

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Arioso*

Boyce

***GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Christine Sines
Mustard Seed Associates

God, may we be instruments of your peace today.

*In a world divided by war and strife,
may we be your reconcilers.*

In a world of hurt and pain,

may we be those who care for our enemies.

In a world that kills and maims,

may we be those who heal and restore.

The blessing of God be upon you.

The blessing of the God of life.

The blessing of Christ be upon you.

The blessing of the Christ of love.

The blessing of the Spirit be upon you.

The blessing of the Spirit of peace.

***SINGING A HYMN** *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak* Red Hymnal 722

