

SETTING APART THIS TIME

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Intermezzo sinfonico*

Mascagni

*GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST ON THE SABBATH

We gather on the Sabbath, a day set apart for rest—rest for us,
rest for creation, rest for the Creator.

*We open our hands, that we may set down the tools of our trade,
and we open our hearts, that we may know the Holy One's presence.*

We give thanks for the gift of life, and for all in creation that sustains
our lives. We remember the liberating, healing, and reconciling
acts of God, and we lift up those yet to be liberated, healed, and reconciled.

*We pray that our labors may dignify God's creation, that we may work
for the dignity of all who labor, and that by Sabbath's holy rest,
we may envision the peace that God intends for all creation. Amen.*

*SINGING A HYMN *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy* Red Hymnal 305

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

Joy Penticuff

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Mark 12: 28-34

REFLECTING

Let me find the salve that will heal your wound, dear Love. I'll cut my heart
in half and place you between the two pieces. I'll be your physician for all
eternity. Mechtild of Magdeburg

When you're alone in the wilderness, you escape the fretful arena where
performance and the search for approval govern so much of your life.
There are no expectations to meet, no authorities to please, no audiences to
impress. In the wilderness, you stand outside of the throng, outside of the
pressures of admiration and blame...I want to *be* the person that I am when
I'm alone in the wilderness. Belden Lane

The birds have vanished from the sky.
Now the last cloud drains away.
We sit together, the mountain and me,
until only the mountain remains.

Li Po

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Allegretto mosso*

Rasch

*PRAISING GOD Tune: Tallis (sing once together, then once as a round)

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 *Loving Spirit*

Red Hymnal 293

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

Red Hymnal 538

*PARTING WITH A SONG *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **adult Christian education class** meets at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings in the adult CE room on the second floor. The class is studying immigration, beginning with asylum. You can get the latest information for the class on our church web site.

The **children's Sunday school class** is collecting used **empty plastic bottles to be upcycled into crafts** at their 'back to school' party. Please rinse the bottles and leave them in the marked bin in the fellowship hall.

Please join us in the **United Church of Christ's All-Church-Read: *Evicted, Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Matthew Desmond.** *Evicted* won the Pulitzer Prize in 2017, and Matthew Desmond is the keynote speaker at the UCC General Synod this summer. Read the book over the summer, and we'll discuss it in the fall.

Our **prayer net** hangs on the door towards the front of our sanctuary. Please feel free to tie a prayer tie onto the net before or after the service. Prayer ties are located in the basket near the net.

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, Thursday, July 18, 7:15 pm, at Reuel Nash's
Coord Council, Thursday, July 25, 7:15 pm, TBD

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



July 14, 2019

Season of Pentecost

True Wilderness

Dear Love

GATHERING TOGETER

The Desert Christians were firmly committed to a practice of silence and simplicity, to a reckless compassion and a fierce indifference to unimportant things. What I'm calling the "wilderness spirituality" of these early desert adventurers involves the following convictions:

There are no easy routes to self-realization; it begins, ironically, with self-abandonment.

The spiritual life thrives on the margins of society, in a solitude framed by community.

Desire and relinquishment are a recurring pattern in wilderness experience.

Failure and making mistakes don't hinder spiritual growth; they occasion it.

The body, when disciplined, becomes an important teacher of spiritual insight.

Wilderness breeds a lifestyle of resistance, cultural critique, and cantankerous honesty.

A wider community of exchange becomes more apparent out in the wilds.

Belden Lane