

## PRAYING FOR LOVE WITHOUT END

We pray for love that is strong enough,  
deep enough, and mature enough,  
to bear all things, and endure all things.

*Love able to withstand  
life's slings and arrows,  
insults and indignities,  
let-downs and betrayal.*

*Love able to endure  
when we are fearful or sad,  
anxious or stressed,  
angry or resentful.*

*Love that doesn't end  
when others are rude or irritable towards us,  
boast about themselves or lie about us,  
rejoice when we suffer.*

We pray for love that is strong enough,  
deep enough, and mature enough,  
to bear all things, and endure all things,  
every minute, every encounter, without end.

## 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

Lucy Erda

## READING AND REFLECTING

### READING FROM THE BIBLE

From The Prophet Hosea

### REFLECTING

Tell me whom you love and I will tell you who you are.

Arsene Houssaye

I have looked our destruction, our miserable end, which has already begun  
in so many small ways in our daily life, straight in the eye, and my love of life  
has not been diminished.

Etty Hillesum

Love has its price. God wants to make us alive, and the wider we open our  
hearts to others or the more audibly we cry out against the injustice which  
rules over us, the more difficult our life in the rich society of injustice  
becomes.

Dorothee Soelle

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

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

Trio "Scherzo-Intermezzo" from *Piano Trio*

Debussy

### \*PRAISING GOD

Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen

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 Limit Not the Truth of God*

Black Hymnal 316

### \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING SONG *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

Red Hymnal 541

\*PARTING WITH A SONG *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Today 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 **a family legally seeking asylum**.

**Task Force 4** (future possibilities in our neighborhood) has invited **Task Force 3** (current building) to participate in a **joint meeting after worship on September 22** to discuss how our current facilities help or hinder our ministry, and to imagine new possibilities given the development of our neighborhood.

Our **All-Church Picnic** will be on **Saturday, September 28, starting at noon**. We will gather at Eastwoods Park, 3001 Harris Park Ave., which is conveniently located next to the Bodman's house, which will be available for bathrooms, etc. Please email Whit Bodman (wbodman@mac.com) or Faye Dierksen (Dierksen.faye@gmail.com) and they will sort out who brings what.

On **Sunday, September 29**, **Amy Kent** and the **Sunday School class** will be hosting an **Open House** at **10:00 am** in the children's Sunday School room.

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.

On **Thursday, October 3**, the **Equal Justice Center** will host its **Mini-Golf Fundraiser** at **Peter Pan Mini-Golf** on 1207 Barton Springs Road, from **6:30 to 8:30 pm**. There will be Franklin BBQ, Ethiopian vegetarian fare, locally-brewed beer, and yes, mini-golf. Our church has for years sponsored one of the golf holes as a "Champion of Justice." If you would like to help our church support a hole, please make a contribution to our church and designate it: **EJC Fundraiser**.

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Council, Wed, Sept 25, 7:15 pm, Whit Bodman's

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Andy and Faye Dierksen  
Nursery Assistant Rene Slataper

## 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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<http://congregationalchurchofaustin.org>

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



September 15, 2019

Season of Pentecost

Love Bears All things

Endures All Things

## GATHERING TOGETHER

Christ called all classes, but showed his preference for the known sinners, the prostitutes, the tax gatherers, the lepers, the Samaritans, and all the outcasts of his time. The church must prefer the outcasts of the present—the campesinos, the slum dwellers, the exploited laborers, the prisoners, those abused by the powerful.

Oscar Romero

## ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Vocalise*

Rachmaninoff

## \*GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

We gather in the name of Jesus Christ,  
as Christ's body in today's world,  
as Christ's presence to other people.

*Poor, Christ embraces those with nothing,  
suffering, Christ embraces those in pain,  
cast out, Christ embraces the outsider.*

Spirit of God, touch our hearts and minds,  
sensitize us to the suffering of others,  
embolden us to stand against oppression and for justice.

*Convert us yet again by your power of love,  
that we may love you, our neighbor, and our enemy,  
and establish justice in our lives and our world.*

\*SINGING A HYMN *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

Red Hymnal 280