

RECEIVING A DIFFICULT BLESSING

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with DISCOMFORT...

at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with ANGER...

at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with TEARS...

to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war,
so that you may reach out your hand and comfort them,
and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough FOOLISHNESS...

to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

*May we have the faith and courage to accept these difficult blessings,
not that we may be uncomfortable, angry, crying fools in this world,
but that we may be powerful, passionate, and wise agents of transformation.*

*May our discomfort be Christ's discomfort, our anger Christ's anger,
our tears Christ's tears, and our foolishness Christ's folly.*

*And may our love be Christ's love, for it is in his name that we pray,
receive God's blessing, and seek to be a blessing upon this world.*

RECEIVING A WORSHIP GIFT

Gregg Callahan

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.

PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED

debts and debtors

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Psalms 133

REFLECTING

Inscribed on the very heart of God's grace is the rule that we can be its recipients only if we do not resist being made its agents; what happens to us must be done by us.

Miroslav Volf

As the churches let go of their preoccupation with being churches and enter more fully into a kingdom/queendom spirituality, they will more fully become what they most want to be: eschatological signs of the kingdom come, of God-with-us. On that day all will hear and grasp the prayer of Jesus: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Matthew Fox

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Allegretto mosso*

Rasch

*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 *O God in Whom All Life Begins* Red Hymnal 308

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*
Red Hymnal 543

*PARTING WITH A SONG *Lord, You give the Great Commission*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Today after worship, we will have **Getting Ready for the Family** work hour. Those of us willing and able will roll up our sleeves and move the archives and other items from the upstairs to the downstairs. Please lend a hand if you're able.

Micah 6 will hold its **Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 26, at 2 pm**, at **The Sanctuary**, located at 2614 Exposition Blvd. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Micah 6 ministry and to celebrate all that the ministry has accomplished in the past year.

University United Methodist Church will host an **Austin Interfaith Civic Academy on homelessness on Sunday, November 3, at 12:30 pm**. How the city of Austin is responding to the issue of homelessness is becoming a more contentious issue, so come learn the latest developments.

CCA will host a **Memorial Service for Dr. Vic Appel on Sunday, November 10, at 1:15 pm**. A light lunch will follow our Sunday worship service for those able to stay for the Memorial Service.

Austin Interfaith will host its **Delegates Assembly on Sunday, November 10, at 3 pm**, at **St. David's Episcopal Church**, located at 301 E. 8th Street (park in their garage). Come to learn about the slate of issues Austin Interfaith is addressing, and to celebrate the inauguration of the new and expanded Central Texas Interfaith.

CCA and Trinity church will host the **H.O.T. Association Fall Meeting on Saturday, November 16, starting at 11:00 am** (registration at 10:30 am) The meeting will be held at Trinity Church (4001 Speedway). The meeting will include a brief worship service, an Ecclesiastical Council for Cam Burton, fellowship and lunch.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Council, Wed, Oct 23, 7:15 pm, Whit Bodman's
Trustees: Thu, Nov 7, 7:15 pm, at Reuel Nash's
Deacons: Wed, Oct 13, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Jo Jensen and Debbie Khort
Nursery Assistant Jaime Hadley

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
Robin Rosson 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



October 20, 2019

Season of Pentecost

Recipient of God's Grace

Agents of God's Grace

GATHERING TOGETHER

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Intermezzo sinfonico*

Mascagni

*GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

How very good and pleasant it is
when sisters, brothers, siblings,
live together in unity—

she, her,
he, him,
they, their,
you and me,
us and others—

all recipients of God's grace,
blessed with love for one another,
blessed with respect for one another,
blessed with care for one another.

*How very good and pleasant it is
when those unfamiliar to us
meet us and feel we are family,
realizing they are recipients of God's grace,
and our love for them,
our respect for them,
and our care for them.*

*SINGING A HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions*

Black Hymnal 391