

GATHERING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

RECEIVING THE LIGHT

Trio *Ava Maria*

Schubert

GATHERING WITH SONG *How Deep the Silence of the Soul* verse 1

Choir and Congregation Black Hymnal 509

GATHERING WITH PRAYER

As we peer into the future with our mind's eye,
or play out different scenarios in our imagination,
how things could go,
what could happen,
who could do what,
some of us may see scary giants ahead,
insurmountable problems,
major disruptions,
significant losses,
and feel frightened.

The giants we see in our future may be real,
and as big, as significant, and as disruptive as they appear,
or they may not be real, or if they are real,
not as big as they seem, not as significant as we imagine,
not as disruptive as we fear.

*We pray for the ability to acknowledge our fear,
without being oppressed or controlled by our fear,
including our fear of the future, and our fear of uncertainty,
if we face an uncertain future.*

We pray for the courage, the faith, the inner strength, the grace,
the resilience, the love, the wisdom, and the support from others
that we need each day, that we may face in a Christ-like manner
what each day brings, and face whatever the future brings,
be it truly scary and disruptive, or not.

REFLECTING AND PRAYING IN SILENCE

***SINGING A HYMN** *O God in Whom All Life Begins* Red Hymnal 308

READING, REFLECTING, AND PRAYING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Numbers 13: 25 – 4: 4

REFLECTING

REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

LIFTING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER

PRAYING TOGETHER AS JESUS PRAYED

debts and debtors

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Of Love*

Duson

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio "Prayer" from *Te Deum*

Handel/Flesch

*PRAISING GOD

Tune: *Old Hundredth*

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** *Lord, When I Came into This Life* Red Hymnal 691

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

***SENDING SONG** *This Is My Song*

Black Hymnal 591

***PARTING WITH A SONG** *Out of the Depths*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, after worship, our **Lenten Program** will begin with our first gathering to reflect on our lives, share with one another, and pray for one another. We will meet a total of four times, three times in Lent and once after Easter. Our themes are: fear, hope, grief, and joy. The second gathering will take place on **Sunday, March 22**.

Our church will be serving the meal at the **Micah 6 Drop-In today**. Thanks to the meal organizer, the cooks, the servers, and the cleaner-uppers.

The Building and Deeping Community Committee will meet after worship on **Sunday, March 15**. If you are interested in participating in this committee, or learning more about it, or have ideas you want to share, please join us.

The **Heart of Texas Association Spring Meeting** will be held at Weimer United Church of Christ on **Saturday, April 4**.

Palm/Passion Sunday is April 5, and we will fold palms into crosses as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and his death on the cross. **Good Friday** is April 10, and we are planning a shared Good Friday service with our friends at University Baptist Church that evening (location still to be determined). **Easter Sunday** is April 12, and we will place flowers on our cross and enjoy our traditional Easter brunch.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons: Wed, March 11, 7:15 pm, zoom meeting
Coord Council: Thu, March 19, 7:15 pm, Whit Bodman's
Trustees: Tue, April 7, 7:30 pm, 2221 Hancock St.

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Gail Christeson and John Goff
Nursery Assistant Faye Dierksen

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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Nodie Murphy Music Director
Rene Slataper Labyrinth Student Ministry
Jonathan Geer Piano
Amy Harris Violin
Josue Martinez Cello
Amy Kent Sunday School Teacher
Sam Clubb Nursery Attendant
Donna Cravens Office Manager
Victor Cardenas Custodian

UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

An Open and Affirming Church
Of The United Church of Christ

March 8, 2020
Second Sunday of Lent

Be Strong
Let Your Heart Take Courage

GATHERING TOGETHER

A life well lived can be understood

as one that risks not being trapped or governed

by its fears,

one that follows the pulse of what matters as it presents itself.

This is not to say that we will ever be free of fear,

but that, in spite of our fear,

we can be drawn by what matters down the unplanned path of time,

where we are often called to choose what is actually there

over what we thought we'd find.

Mark Nepo