

***SINGING TOGETHER**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Red Hymnal 133

LITANY OF WELCOME

God, how can we comprehend— though we've seen them times before—
Lines of people without end fleeing danger, want, and war?

They seek safety anywhere, hoping for a welcome hand!

Can we know the pain they bear? Help us, Lord, to understand!

You put music in their souls; now they struggle to survive.

You gave each one gifts and goals; now they flee to stay alive.

God of outcasts, may we see how you value everyone,

For each homeless refugee is your daughter or your son.

Lord, your loving knows no bounds; you have conquered death for all.

May we hear beyond our towns to our distant neighbors' call.

Spirit, may our love increase; may we reach to all your earth,

Till your whole world lives in peace; till we see each person's worth.

(From *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Sirach 24: 1-12

John 1:1-18

REFLECTING

“Bedlam”

Rev. Dr. Whit Bodman

***HYMN OF REFLECTION**

Somebody's Knocking at Your Door Red 728

SHARING CHRIST'S MEAL

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

RECEIVING THE BREAD & CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

***PRAISING GOD**

Tune: *All Creatures Of Our God and King*

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

***SENDING SONG**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Red Hymnal 136

***TAKING THE LIGHT OF HOPE INTO THE WORLD**

***OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

***PARTING IN PEACE**

**Worshippers are invited to stand as they are able, in body or in spirit.*

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Ushers

Warinda Harris and Jen Howicz

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

NEW Sunday Morning Schedule for Children beginning January 9! Childcare will be available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers starting at 10:00am and lasting until 1:00pm, to give parents/caregivers time to fellowship after worship. Sunday school for elementary age kids will be available from 10:00-11:00am, and then they will be invited to attend worship. **We will begin with a time of singing and a bible story for all the children at 10:00am, and then children will disperse to either the nursery or their Sunday school classroom.** Plans are in the works to resume youth Sunday school, as well. Stay tuned for further details!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Deacons: Wed., Jan. 5, 7:30 pm on Zoom

Trustees: Tues., Jan. 11, 8:00 pm on Zoom

Coordinating Council: Thurs., Jan. 20, 7:00 pm at Reuel Nash's home

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, UCC

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Director of Online Ministries

Labyrinth Progressive Student Ministry

Piano

Violin

Cello

Office Manager

Custodian

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

An Open and Affirming Church
Of The United Church of Christ

January 2, 2022

The First Sunday of Christmastide



GATHERING

BECOMING PRESENT TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

WORDS OF WELCOME

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

to carry Christ into this world.

An ordinary carpenter was invited—

to be a father to a child unlike any other.

The shepherds were invited—

outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

The Magi were invited—

foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

then we can trust that we too are invited.

This story is for us, this love is for us,

and for everyone on the move, in search of a home.