



# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of AUSTIN

An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ  
Order of Worship for 8/21/2022  
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Zoom link for Joys & Concerns: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2057847210>

Link to PDF of Hymns for larger print:

**Prelude & Receiving the Light of Christ:** Melody in D

G. Fauré

## **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship:**

One: Jesus has given us a new commandment:

**Many: We are commanded to love one another.**

One: Just as Christ has loved us,

**Many: So we ought to have love for one another.**

One: By this, everyone will know we are Christ's disciples:

**Many: By our love for one another.**

One: Come, may we join our hearts in worship:

**Many: Worship God by loving one another.**

~ written by Rev. Mindi and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

**\*Hymn of Celebration:** Black #28 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

### **\*Invocation:**

Ever-calling God,

We give thanks that you have gathered us into your church  
and graced us with your faithful presence.

We ponder our history, ancient and still developing,  
and marvel at the many expressions of your church and of your beloved.

Grant us the vision to be a part of this new moment in your Church  
that will bring ever more joy and justice to the world

Especially to and for our GLBTQI+ -siblings, -family, and -friends.

Continue to gather us, the diverse lot of us,  
into Jesus' vision and dream

that your faithful people may be one in you. Amen

**Listening To the Sacred Text:** Acts 2:42-47

Listening for the Spirit in Silence:

*Word and words, O God. Help us to hear the One among the many.*

**Reflecting:** "Community of Believers" (Rev. Nikki Stahl, Association Minister for the Heart of Texas Association)

**\*Hymn of Reflection:** Black #388 "Help Us Accept Each Other"

### **Prayer for Transformation and New Life (in unison)**

**God, we come before you in these mortal bodies,**

**Pledging that we will become instruments of peace, love and hope.**

**Christ called us to serve as disciples to all nations, to all people.**

**We commit to serving without fear, learning how to serve as Jesus served,**

**Seeing the beloved-ness of your people, people set free by Your grace and love.**

Let us be instruments to glorify you, O God.  
Let our hearts and minds hear Your message of love and hope.  
Let us be obedient to the work Jesus entrusted to us,  
Let us hear his teaching, and through it learn how we are to treat one another.  
Hear this prayer of our hearts, O God. Amen.

### Offering invitation

Our ancestors in faith and church-building  
show us the way to share the gifts God has given us  
with the whole community.  
Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God  
with heartfelt gratitude, commitment and praise.

Offertory Music: Légende

S. Prokofieff

**\*Doxology** (*Tune: All Creatures Of Our God and King*)

*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.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication:**

Transform our lives, O God,  
and let these gifts change the world into which we send them.  
Take them and multiply them to be a blessing of justice and peace  
in the world you love!

**\*Sending Song:** Black #393 “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

### \*Benediction

One: Day by day, God will lead us:

**Many: to those pools of peace where we can  
care for our friends and strangers  
even from a safe distance.**

One: Day by day, Jesus will call us:

**Many: to give ourselves in service,  
to anoint others with hope,  
to stay in the safe places  
for the good of all of God's people.**

One: Day by day, the Spirit shows us:

**Many: the people we might be,  
the community we might become  
when once again we can gather.**

(c) 2020 Thom M. Shuman

**Postlude:** Allegro, ma dolce from Trio #5

J. Haydn

***\*Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.***

### **Leading In Today's Service:**

Carolyn Thompson, Usher

Rev. Nikki Stahl, Association Minister for the Heart of Texas Association,  
South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ

Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Ann Locasio, Reader

Joy Penticuff, Pulpit Assistant

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Amy Harris, Violin

Liz Lee, Cello