



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ  
Order of Worship for 8/13/2023

***Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost ~ Austin PRIDE Weekend***

Rev. Amelia K. Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

**Prelude**

“Rainbow Connection”

J. Henson

**Welcome & Call to Worship** *(by enfleshed)*

One: Strange One. Fabulous One. Fluid and ever becoming One.

**Many: Do not allow us to make our ideas of you into an idol.**

One: You are as close to us as our own breath and yet, your essence transcends all that we can imagine.

**Many: You are mother, father, and parent. You are sister, brother, and sibling. You are drag queen, and trans man, and gender-fluid – incapable of limiting your vast expressions of beauty.**

One: Embodied in us, your creation, we recognize our flesh in all its forms is made holy in You. With thanksgiving, we celebrate your manifestation in all its glorious forms.

**Many: Blessed are our bodies. Blessed is our love. Blessed are we when we celebrate that which the world turns away. Fill our hearts with a pride rooted in resistance to all that seeks to destroy.**

One: May we delight in the ways you have created us: diverse, unique, surprising, and beautiful. Thanks be to God!

**\*Hymn of Celebration:**

“Love Astounding”

See handout.

**Invocation**

*God of so many names, you invite us to come to you, yet we are doubtful of our abilities to make the journey. We are so uncertain of our steps, yet we long to have the faith in ourselves that you have in us. Be with us and embolden us through faith to rise as we are called to walk with you and walk alongside those who need companionship.*

*Show us how to be children of God who can set skepticism down and take up the mantle of faithful presence. Amen.*

**Listening To the Sacred Text:**

Luke 15:11-32

**Reflecting in Community**

“PRIDE is for Everyone”

**\*Hymn of Reflection:**

“Sing a New World Into Being”

See handout.

**Prayer for Transformation & New Life** (Unison)

*God our Gentle Parent, bring calm to the storms that batter us and blow us off course. We do not need to walk on water; we need only walk through our lives as whole and holy children who recognize that your love unites us, buoys us, and carries us forward to face miraculous challenges in a complex world. Help us to see through the clutter of daily existence in order to focus on what is most important: love, compassion, faith, and connection. Amen.*

**Invitation to Generosity**

*“How might we be abundant? And in what ways are we still in need?” ~ Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry*

Offertory Music:

“Cavatina”

J. Raff

**\*Doxology** (Tune: *All Creatures of Our God & King, Glory to God #15*)

*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**

**Announcements**

**\*Sending Song:**

“God Be with You”

New Century Hymnal #81

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude:**

“Perpetual Motion” from Little Suite #6

K. Böhm

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

**Leading In Today’s Service:**

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Sarah Darter, Usher & Liturgist

Amy Harris, Violin

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries

Jonathan Geer, Piano