

Welcome to Congregational Church, Austin, UCC!

If you are visiting for the first time, we are so glad you have joined us! We invite you to join us after worship for a time of fellowship so that we can learn more about you and share more about our church with you!

Thank you for leading us in worship with your presence!

Leading In Today's Service:

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Interim Pastor and Teacher

John Goff, Usher & Liturgist

Maimy Fong, Guest Piano

Amy Harris, Violin

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Robin Rosson, Cello



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 9/3/2023

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Words for Centering

Work when there is work to do. Rest when you are tired. One thing done in peace will most likely be better than ten things done in panic. Susan McHenry

Prelude

“Allegro, Ma Dolce from Trio #5”

F. Haydn

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

***Hymn of Celebration**

“You are Welcome Here”

Sing Prayer and Praise #26

***Call to Worship**

John Goff

Siblings in Christ, I have brought my work gloves, and I am ready to worship!

John, we're glad you're ready to worship, but why did you bring work gloves?

Since this is Labor day weekend, I assumed that meant that we would labor as a faith community together!

Our labor certainly comes in our physical service at the church; it also comes in the ways we honor those whose work is hard, seldom acknowledged, and rife with discrimination.

We give thanks for those like labor unions and immigrant advocates, who fight for the living wage and dignity of every worker in Austin!

As the psalmist reminds us, God's ways to justice are made known through the humble.

We bring our spiritual work gloves of truth and wisdom-seeking so that we may put our faith into action and labor with our neighbors.

So come, let us worship the God whose labor creates justice for all!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Rev. Ginny

Psalm 25:4-12 (paraphrase, Rev. Dr. Wilda Gaffney)

Make known to me your ways, Ageless God; teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Remember your maternal love, O Womb of Life, and your faithful love, for they have been from of old. The sins of my youth and my transgressions remember not;

According to your faithful love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, Gracious One.

Good and upright is the Fount of Wisdom, therefore she instructs sinners in the way. She guides the humble in what is just and teaches the humble her way.

All the paths of the Wisdom of the Ages are faithful and true for those who keep her covenant and her decrees.

For your Name's sake, Loving God, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Who are they that fear the Holy One of Old?

She will teach them the way that they should choose.

***Hymn of Reflection**

"As We Gather at Your Table"

NCH332

Prayers for God's Beloved Community

Rev. Ginny

Reading of the Christian Scriptures

Romans 12:9-21

John Goff

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.* Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;* do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God;* for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads. 'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the spirit of God's love. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

"How Can I Keep from Singing"

arr. Shaw

Reflecting in Community

"Thank God for Our Messy Prayers!"

Rev. Ginny

Silence**Communion****An Invitation to Everyone****The Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup****A Prayer of Nourishing Love****Invitation to Generosity**

Rev. Ginny

You are invited to financially give so that we can continue to serve our neighbors in Austin and throughout the world. Your generosity can be with cash, a check, or scanning the QR code to give online (see the back of this bulletin). Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Music

"Romance"

C. Debussy

***Doxology**

Tune, All Creatures of Our God & 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**

John Goff

***Sending Song**

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

NCH23

Benediction*Postlude**

"Allegretto from Trio in D"

W. A. Mozart

You are invited to be seated and listen to the postlude as our gift to you from the Divine.