

Welcome to Congregational Church, Austin, UCC!

If you are visiting for the first time, we are so glad you have joined us! Thank you for leading us in worship with your presence!

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!

Please click on the QR code below and fill out the information form so that we can learn more about you!



Leading In Today's Service:

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

Lynn Chavarria, Liturgist

Jaime Hadley, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Amy Harris, Violin

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries

Patryce King, Piano

Liz Lee, Cello

Laura Martin, Director of Music



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ

Order of Worship for 9/17/2023

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Words for Centering

Ann Weems

*In the godforsaken, obscene quicksand of life,
There is a deafening alleluia
Rising from the souls
Of those who weep,
And of those who weep with those who weep.
If you watch, you will see
The hand of God
Putting the stars back in their skies
One by one.*

Prelude

"Passapeid"

L. Delibes

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

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***Hymn of Celebration** “You are Welcome Here!” Sing Prayer and Praise #26

***Call to Worship** Lynn Chavarria
Siblings in Christ, I have my cell phone timer on, and I am ready for worship!
Lynn, we are glad you are ready to worship, but why do you need your cell phone timer?

This morning’s psalm asks God, “How long, Holy One?” Since the psalmist was asking for time, I assumed I could provide my cell phone’s handy timer for assistance.

The psalmist’s question of time takes longer than any clock can provide. It is the time when life is really tough, and it may feel like God is not present.

But God is always present with us especially in the in-between moments when time and God’s presence seem to stand still.

So come, let us worship our ever-present God of all times!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Psalm 13 Rev. Ginny
paraphrase written by Rev. Dr. Wilda Gaffney

How long, Holy One? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

How long will I counsel myself, sorrow in my heart, every day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Look! Answer me, Faithful One my God! Enlighten to my eyes lest I sleep into death.

Then my enemy will say, “I have prevailed over him”; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

Yet I trusted in your lovingkindness; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Womb of Life, because she has poured goodness on me.

***Hymn of Reflection** “O God, My God” NCH515

Prayers for God’s Beloved Community Rev. Ginny

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Romans 14:7-9 Lynn Chavarria

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

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

Anthem “Why God” Choplin

Reflecting in Community “Waiting for God-Oh!” Rev. Ginny

Silence

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 “Intermezzo Sinfonica” P. Mascagni

***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** Lynn Chavarria
We thank you, God, for the opportunity to share our financial resources with our neighbors throughout your creation. May you bless the hands, minds, and hearts of all who benefit from our gifts so that we may more fully live into your Beloved Community now. Amen.

***Sending Song** “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” NCH76

***Benediction** Rev. Ginny

Postlude “Menuet from Divertmento in D” W.A. Mozart

You are invited to be seated and listen to the postlude as our gift to you from the Divine. Please join us in the fellowship area for coffee and snacks before we return to share in a time of joys and concerns.