

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

Sarah Darter, Usher

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Amy Harris, Violin

Liz Lee, Cello

Andrea Low, Worship Leader

Laura Martin, Director of Music



Congregational Church, Austin,

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Order of Worship for 10/29/2023

22nd Sunday After Pentecost

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

Words for Centering David Hogg, Cofounder, March for Our Lives
*"We can choose to be hopeful, try and possibly fail
Or not be hopeful, give up and definitely fail."*

Prelude Improvisation on "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel
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***Hymn of Celebration** "Love and Justice" Sing, Prayer, and Praise #22

***Call to Worship** Andrea Low
On this beautiful fall day, we come to worship God.

Just as the fall season reminds us that our lives move in a rhythm of falling away, our worship reflects the rhythm of our relationship to God as well.

There are times in our spiritual journeys when God calls us to fall away and rest.

We let go of the unnecessary things so that our very selves can lie dormant in God's fertile ground.

This morning we remember Jesus' words that the most important thing God calls us to do is love God with all of who we are and love our neighbor as our Self.

So come let us celebrate the fall and the ways we are called to give in important and healthy ways. Come let us worship God!

Generosity Testimonial

Jonathan Geer and Roberto Hernandez

For the next three Sundays, we will hear church members share why they pledge and give to Congregational Church, Austin, UCC. Their testimonials will prepare us for our own prayerful discernment of what we will financially pledge to give in 2024. Generosity Sunday is November 12.

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 90:1-6; 13-17 NCH page 680

***Hymn of Reflection**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

NCH25

Prayers for God’s Beloved Community

Rev. Ginny

Reading of the Christian Scriptures

Matthew 22:34-40

Rev. Ginny

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ He said to him, ‘“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

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

Anthem

“O Love”

Hagenberg

Reflecting in Community

“How to Respond to a Religious Bully”

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

“Perfume de Gardenia”

R. Hernandez

***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**

Andrea Low

Gracious God, we give thanks for the ways you teach us to love through your generosity. Bless these financial gifts that they may be expressions of our love for you, our neighbors, and ourselves. Amen.

***Sending Song**

“God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command”

NCH592

Benediction*Postlude**

“Allegretto from Sonata K. 454 in B-flat”

W.A. Mozart

You are invited to be seated and listen to the postlude as our gift to you from the Divine. We will begin our joys and concerns shortly after the postlude.