



**Congregational Church of Austin,  
United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ  
Order of Worship for 4/28/2024  
***Fifth Sunday After Easter***

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

**Words for Centering**

Brother Ramon

*Lord Jesus, Vine of Heaven: I long to abide in you, a living and fruit-bearing branch of the vine. Grant that I may learn from the pruning experiences of my life, and discern the value of the changing seasons, so that when the renewing sap flows through the branches of the vine, I may rejoice and bear fruit for the joy of the world. Amen.*

**Ringling of the Bells**

**Prelude**      Improvisation on "All Beautiful the March of Days"

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

*If you are visiting for the first time, we are so glad you have joined us!*

**\*Hymn of Celebration**      New Life      UCC Sing! Prayer and Praise #156

**\*Call to Worship**

Dave Ross

Good morning, Congregational Church of Austin. Why have you come to worship this morning?

**We have come to abide in God through music, prayers, thought, and fellowship.**

The Gospel of John uses the word, "abide," as an invitation to remain connected to God even during the most difficult times in our lives.

**If we abide in God, we are tapping into the nourishing opportunities God provides like the vine that nourishes the branches in order to bear fruit.**

But the fruit of our branches is not comprised of more work, more success, or more accomplishments.

**The fruit of our branches is God's love that has the capacity to empower all of us to live into who God has created us to be as God's Beloved Community.**

So come, friends and neighbors, and let us abide in God together.

**Come, let us worship God!**

**Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures**                      Psalm 22:25-31                      Dave Ross

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear God. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek God shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before God. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and God rules over the nations. To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before God shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for God. Posterity will serve God; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

**Reading of the Christian Scriptures** John 15:1-8                      Rev. Ginny

I am the true vine, and my Divine Parent is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit She prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Divine Parent is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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

**\*Hymn of Reflection**                      I Am the Vine                      Shirley Erena Murray

**Prayers for God's Beloved Community**                      Rev. Ginny

**Anthem**

An Irish Melody

Margaret R. Tucker

**Reflecting in Community**

Rev. Ginny

“Abiding in God’s Love by Bearing Fruits of Peaceful Protest”

**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.*

**Offertory Music** Adagio molto espressivo from Spring Sonata L. v Beethoven

**\*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**

Dave Ross

From you comes our praise, O God. Accept our financial gifts as expressions of our praise to you. Accept our commitment to serve our neighbor in your love as expressions of how we abide in you. And bless each person, who benefits from our gifts so that we may more fully live into your Beloved Community now and forevermore. Amen.

**\*Sending Song**

Renew Your Church

\*\*NCH311

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Ginny

**Postlude**

Allegro from Spring Sonata

L. v Beethoven

*You are invited to be seated and listen to the postlude as our gift to you from the Divine. After the postlude, we will have a time of joys and concerns and prayer.*

*If you are visiting with us, you are invited to stay for as much or as little as you choose. We are grateful for your presence with us today!*

## *Welcome to the Congregational Church of 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*

*Jonathan Geer, Piano*

*John Goff, Sound and Worship Streaming*

*Amy Harris, Violin*

*Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon*

*Laura Martin, Director of Music*

*Dave Ross, Worship Leader*

\*\* *When we refer to the New Century Hymnal, we use the acronym, NCH.*



### **Invitation to Baptismal Bowl and Prayer Net During Offertory**

*You are invited to bring your offering forward and place in the offering plate. You are also invited to the table near the prayer net. Our baptismal bowl is there for you to dip your fingers in God's Living Water as a baptismal reminder that you are created in God's image and loved wholly just as you are! You are also invited to take a prayer ribbon (symbolizing the prayers you bring with you today) and tie it to the prayer net to remind us that God holds the collective prayers of creation together in God's love for all of creation.*

*If you would rather remain seated and participate, simply lift your hand and an usher will bring you an offering plate and prayer ribbon. Please participate as much or as little as you choose.*