



**Easter Sunday Worship Service
Trans Day of Visibility**



**The Congregational Church of Austin, UCC
An Open and Affirming Congregation**



March 31, 2024

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

Words for Centering Eric Busby & Brendan Nee, Union Seminary Students
At a time when Christians celebrate the promise of new life, transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming (TNBGNC) Christians face an assault on their hope. How can we trust in the promise of the resurrection when the outlook is so bleak? Perhaps this is why TNBGNC Christians identify so strongly with Jesus Christ, whose transgressive move from death to life, defying expectations and social norms, stokes the flames of possibility. There is no boundary that seems so permanent and unbreachable as that between the living and the dead, and yet, Jesus crosses it. Through this lens, the resurrection is undeniably trans.

Ringling of the Chime

Prelude

Improvisation on "The Green Blade Rises"

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

If you are visiting with us, welcome!

Flowering of the Cross

On this Easter Sunday, we celebrate Christ's resurrection by flowering the cross, which reminds us that God's love will always bloom forth even and especially in death. You are invited to come forward, take a flower and place it in the chicken wire of the cross as your participation in the continuing celebration that Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed!

*Hymn of Celebration

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Alonso

*Call to Worship

Pat Oakes

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

On this beautiful Easter morning, we are reminded of the ways Christ is risen and lives among us through the resurrection story.

We celebrate that Christ lives in our hearts and in our world – where no amount of violence or hatred can separate God from God's creation!

We celebrate that Christ lives in our bodies and in our neighbors – where no amount of fences can separate us from the love of God expressed in each of us.

We celebrate that Christ lives in our minds and in our empty tombs – where no amount of suffering can contain the hope and dreams of God our Creator!

So come, Congregational Church of Austin! Let us celebrate that Christ is risen and lives among us this Easter morning!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 25:6-9

Pat Oakes

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And God will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; God will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of God's people God will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for God, so that God might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Mark 16: 1-8

Rev. Ginny

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

***Hymn of Reflection**

I Come to the Garden Alone

**NCH237

Prayers for God’s Beloved Community

Rev. Ginny

Anthem

Children of God

Anne Krentz Organ

Reflecting in Community

A TRANSformation to Celebrate!

Rev. Ginny

Silence

Invitation to Generosity

Rev. Ginny

Offertory Music

Cavatina from Six Morceaux

J. Raff

***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**

Pat Oakes

O Resurrecting God, we celebrate that death never has the final say because your love always has the capacity to transform our grief into new life. Receive our financial gifts as our commitment to embody your transformative love. Bless all who benefit from these gifts that we may participate in your Easter vision now and forevermore. Amen.

***Sending Song**

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

GTG 248

***Benediction**

Rev. Ginny

Postlude

Allegro from Sonata in D

G. F. Händel

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

*After the postlude, please join us for an Easter brunch and Easter egg hunt!
Rev. Ginny will offer our joys and concerns afterward for those who wish to participate.*

We are grateful for your presence with us today!

*2024 Easter Lilies ~
Congregational Church of Austin, UCC*

In Honor of:

Barbara DeBlanc Johnson

Laura Martin

Low-wage working people

From:

Warinda Harris

Lucy Erda

Bill Beardall

In Memory of:

Betsy and David Kultgen

Virginia and Rufus Nash

Always within us

From:

Liz & Reuel Nash

Ward & Edna Ross

Bill & Margarite Schumacher

David & Sara Ross

Judie Anne Caulder Brown &

Warren Moore,

My Mother and Father-in-law

Ginny Brown Daniel

My Parents, Jack & Connie Robbins

My Cousin, Richard Ward

Carolyn Thompson

Bob & Lois Winter

Fred & Margie Oakes

Mel & Pat Oakes

Chester Rosson

Barbara Burnham

James & Ruth DeBlanc

Warinda Harris

Welcome to the Congregational Church of 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!

Leading In Today's Service:

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

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Amy Harris, Violin

Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Reuel Nash, Sound and Worship Streaming

Pat Oakes, Worship Leader

** *GTG refers to the black New Century Hymnal*
NCH refers to the red Glory to God Hymnal



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.