



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 5/19/2024

### ***Pentecost Sunday***

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

#### **Words for Centering**

Rachel Held Evans

*“This is what’s most annoying and beautiful about the windy Spirit and why we so often miss it. It has this habit of showing up in all the wrong places and among all the wrong people, defying our categories and refusing to take direction.”*

#### **Ringling of the Bells**

#### **Prelude**

Arabesque No. 1

C. Debussy

#### **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**

One Foot/Lead with Love

*Please see handout*

#### **\*Call to Worship**

Warinda Harris

Siblings in Christ, today is Pentecost Sunday – 50 days after Easter when the Holy Spirit set the world on fire with the birth of Christ’s Church! Woohoo!

**Happy Birthday, Church! The story from Acts reminds us that the Church did not suddenly appear with rules, order, theology, and worship. It started with a violent wind of the Holy Spirit.**

This gives us hope that in the midst of challenges and polarization, the Holy Spirit speaks to us in many languages, where we all understand each other as one.

**Happy Birthday, Church! On this Pentecost Sunday, may we celebrate the diverse expressions of Christ’s liberating love in Christian churches everywhere. Come, let us worship God!**

## **Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures**

Ezekiel 37:1, 7-14      Warinda Harris

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and the Lord brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then the Lord said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then God said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.’

## **Reading of the Christian Scriptures** Act 2:1-4, 12-17

Rev. Ginny

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘People of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

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

**\*Hymn of Reflection**          Sweet Delight, Most Lovely          \*\*NCH269

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

**Anthem**          Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God          Larson

**Reflecting in Community**          Rev. Ginny

**Mission Moment for Strengthen the Church UCC Offering**

**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**          Waltz Op. 64 No. 2          F. Chopin

**\*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**          Warinda Harris  
Pentecost Spirit, receive our gifts as expressions of our love for the Church. May you bless these gifts to comfort the most vulnerable and empower the powerless so that your Church may live on through the Congregational Church of Austin. Amen.

**\*Sending Song**          Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us          NCH267

**\*Benediction**          Rev. Ginny

**Postlude**          Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum          C. Debussy  
*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*

*Lucy Erda, Sound and Worship Streaming*

*Jonathan Geer, Piano*

*Warinda Harris, Worship Leader*

*Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon*

*Laura Martin, Director of Music*

*\*\* 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.*