



**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 5/5/2024

Sixth Sunday After Easter

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

Words for Centering

Father Daniel Berrigan

"If you want to be hopeful, be loving."

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

Improvisation on "Spirit of Gentleness"

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Shelby Nowland

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!

***Hymn of Celebration**

Living the Life UCC Sing! Prayer and Praise #41

***Call to Worship**

Joy Penticuff

Christ gives us a new commandment:

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

When we love one another as Christ has loved us, we will live lives full of joy.

We will live with God’s love deep in our hearts.

Let us worship the one who shows us how to love.

Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

Reading of the Epistles

Acts 10:44-48

Joy Penticuff

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ‘Can anyone

withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Hymn of Reflection** Called as Partners in Christ’s Service. *NCH495**

Prayers for God’s Beloved Community Rev. Shelby Nowland

Reading of the Christian Scriptures John 15:12-17 Rev. Shelby Nowland

‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

Anthem O Love Divine Wagner

Reflecting in Community Love in the Apocalypses Rev. Shelby Nowland

Silence

Invitation to Generosity Rev. Shelby Nowland

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.

Communion

An Invitation to Everyone

The Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

A Prayer of Nourishing Love

Communion Music

Adoration

F. B. Price

***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**

Joy Penticuff

Adapted from the Offering prayer in our New Century Hymnal 845

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received: accept, we pray, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given; follow it with your blessing that it may promote your peace and love among all people and advance your Beloved Community now and always. Amen.

***Sending Song**

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

NCH342

***Benediction**

Rev. Shelby Nowland

Postlude

Rondo from Trio #2

F. Haydn

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!

Leading In Today's Service:

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Amy Harris, Violin

Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Liz Lee, Cello

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Reuel Nash, Sound and Worship Streaming

Rev. Shelby Nowland, Guest Preacher

Joy Penticuff, Worship Leader

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



Welcome, Rev. Shelby Nowland! Rev. Nowland graciously accepted to lead us in worship this morning while Rev. Ginny officiates a wedding.. He is the Minister for the Labyrinth Ministry, which CCA supports with our money, prayers, and love! Welcome, Shelby

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.