



The Congregational Church of Austin, UCC,
an Open and Affirming Congregation

*Providing a nurturing, safe, and affirming community for all people to flourish
in God's love, justice, and peace!*

408 W. 23rd Street Austin, TX 78705

An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 6/30/2024
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Open and Affirming Sunday

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

Words for Centering

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

It's not enough to simply say 'all are welcome' in our churches. We must be active in making sure our LGBTQ+ siblings feel seen, heard, and loved, just as they are.

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude

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** Fearfully, Wonderfully Made

Crabtree and Whitehill

Please see handout

Call to Worship**

Kevin Dietz

Today is Open and Affirming Sunday! Each of us is created with worth, imbued with dignity.

We are the representation of God's love in the world, diverse in our experiences, vast in our manifestation of how love looks.

Our lives are enriched when LGBTQIA+ people are welcomed and affirmed in our churches and communities.

Our lives are enriched when our Black, Latinx, and Indigenous neighbors are affirmed.

Our sacred texts, call us to be a people of justice. We all suffer when any LGBTQIA+ person is oppressed, excluded, or shamed.

When justice is denied to any of us, justice is denied to all of us. May we work to build a world where all people are affirmed with love.

Our sexual and gender diversity enriches us, creates joy in our lives. Joy given by and through you.

May our hearts be open to Christ's leading in our worship and our living, as an Open and Affirming Church in the West Campus of Austin!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 130

***Hymn of Reflection**

God of Queer, Transgressive Spaces

Please see handout

Prayers for God's Beloved Community

Rev. Ginny

Reading of the Christian Scriptures 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Rev. Ginny

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter, I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something — now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, ‘The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.’

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

Anthem

For All the Children

Lohman

Reflecting in Community Is Being Open and Affirming Enough in 2024 Texas?

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

*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****

Kevin Dietz

It is a gift to be able to give something away. We are called to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. Spirit of Love, look upon us now. Bless these financial gifts; use them to extend your radical Open and Affirming Spirit to those who identify as LGBTQIA+. May your Beloved Community be realized as we work together in your love. Amen.

*Sending Song

Love Astounding

*Benediction

Rev. Ginny

Postlude

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

Kevin Dietz, Worship Leader

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Liz Lee, Cello

Laura Martin, Director of Music

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

****The Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from the UCC
ONA Coalition resources*



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.