

*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*

*Amy Harris, Violin*

*Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon*

*Liz Lee, Cello*

*Laura Martin, Director of Music*

*Reuel Nash, Sound and Worship Streaming*

*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.*



**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 6/9/2024

**Third Sunday After Pentecost**

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

**Words for Centering**

Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder, Founder and Senior Pastor of City of Refuge, UCC

*We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it.*

**Ringing of the Bells**

**Prelude**

Improvisation on "Colorful Creator"

**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**

Welcome, everyone! As we gather to worship today, let us celebrate God's boundless love and the wonderful diversity of creation, especially during this Pride Month.

**We believe and speak out our faith, celebrating the spirit of love that unites us all.**

God's grace is for everyone, expanding to include more and more people, and filling our hearts with gratitude.

**We are renewed day by day by God's love, even and especially in times of struggle.**

So do not lose heart because God's glory always moves us beyond what we can see to the eternal presence of God's spirit.

**We rejoice in the promise of God's eternal presence filled with God's love and celebration of all. So come, let us worship our renewing and glorious God!**

**Singing of the Hebrew Scriptures**          Psalm 138          \*\*NCH page 714

**\*Hymn of Reflection**          O Holy Spirit, Root of Life          \*\*NCH57

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

**Reading of the Christian Scriptures**          2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1          Rev. Ginny

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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

**Anthem**          Beautiful Savior          Allen

**Reflecting in Community**          Inside Out          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**          May Night          S. Palmgren

**\*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  
Divine Creator, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and praise for your unending love. We thank you for the renewal you bring to our spirits each day. We dedicate these offerings to you and ask that you bless the lives of all who will benefit from our gifts. Help us to more fully live into your Beloved Community now and forevermore. Amen.

**\*Sending Song**          Come and Join the Celebration          Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
*please see handout*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**          Waltz from Sleeping Beauty          P.I. Tchaikovsky  
*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!*

*Please stay after our joys and concerns for a brief congregational meeting to vote on our Vision Statement! Woohoo!*