



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 7/21/2024
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Words for Centering

Sister Joan Chittister

*Hospitality means we take people into the space that is our lives,
Our minds and our hearts and our work and our efforts.*

Hospitality is the way we come out of ourselves.

It is the first step towards dismantling the barriers of the world.

Hospitality is the way we turn a prejudiced world around, one heart at a time.

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

Improvisation on "Praise to the Living God"

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

*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**

At This Table

Menzel and Myrin

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Ginny

Good morning, friends of the Congregational Church of Austin! On this hot
July morning, we give thanks for God our Creator!

**We will sing of God's steadfast love we experience in the beauty of
nature, the fellowship of friends, and the streams of God's justice that flow all
around us.**

This morning, we especially celebrate God's steadfast love in our covenant
with the Heart of Texas Association and our Association Minister, the Rev. Nikki
Stahl.

Our covenant holds us together with our sibling UCC churches from Corpus Christi to Coupland, Texas.

We pray for our ministry together as the United Church of Christ in this pivotal moment of creating a just world for all people to flourish.

So come, let us celebrate God's steadfast love in our covenant with one another! Come, let us worship God!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Psalm 89: 1-4 Rev. Ginny

I will sing of your steadfast love, O God, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: I will establish your descendants forever and build your throne for all generations.'

Hymn of Reflection** Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether *NCH337**

Litany of Appreciation for the Heart of Texas Association Rev. Ginny

Today, we give thanks for the Heart of Texas Association of the United Church of Christ.

We celebrate that God is Still Speaking through our 16 UCC churches from Coupland to Corpus Christi!

Our covenant is strong as we express God's love in bold and prophetic ways.

We give thanks for Rev. Nikki Stahl and our church members, who lead in the Association ministries such as the Committee on Ministry, the Executive Committee, and our Association meetings.

For Sarah Darter, Britt Hicks, Liz Nash, Shelby Nowland, Kay Pruett, Sara Ross, Rene Slataper, and CJ Wood – thank you!

May God bless them with compassionate wisdom as they generously give of their time, talents, and resources to the Heart of Texas Association.

We pray for our sibling churches, ministers, and members in discernment as God continues to call them to serve the Beloved Community in Christ's liberating love.

May we continue to strive toward a Just World for All throughout God's creation.

Prayers for God's Beloved Community Rev. Ginny

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Luke 10: 38-42 Rev. Nikki Stahl

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

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

Anthem Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Rev. Ginny

Reflecting in Community Welcoming All for Abundant Life Rev. Nikki Stahl

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 Romance from Concerto No. 2 in D minor H. Wieniawski

***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** Rev. Ginny

***Sending Song** O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder NCH35

***Benediction** Rev. Ginny

Postlude La danes des demoiselles R. Friml; arr. F. Kreisler

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. Nikki Stahl, Guest Preacher and Heart of Texas Association Minister

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

Lucy Erda, Sound and Worship Streaming

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Amy Harris, Violin

Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Laura Martin, Director of Music

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

Welcome, Rev. Nikki Stahl! Rev. Stahl is our Heart of Texas Association Minister. She provides support to the UCC churches from Coupland to Corpus Christi! She works with the Committee on Ministry and Executive Committee to do the ministry of the UCC in central and south Texas! Woohoo!

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.