



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 8/25/2024
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Words for Centering

Rev. Benjamin Perry

*Truly, if we are created in the image of God, we are made to
transgress narrow definitions of "masculine" and "feminine" behavior.
The God of scripture is neither male nor female,
Transcending human conceptions of gender altogether.*

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

Improvisation on "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"

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**

Let it Shine

Sing! Prayer and Praise 196

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Ginny

Siblings in Christ, I wore my rainbow of colors and I am ready for worship!

Rev. Ginny, we are glad you know that at the Congregational Church of Austin, you are welcome as God has created you!

I am grateful that this church not only welcomes the Rainbow stories of those whom God has created in God's image but advocates for God's justice in our society as well!

God created us to work with Rainbow allies like the Rev. Mary Wilson and ChrysalisQ Ministry, which supports LGBTQIA+ youth and their families.

This is what it means to be providing a safe community for all people to flourish in God's love, justice, and peace! Woohoo!

So come, let us worship God our Creator in the Rainbow Stories of courage, beauty, and love!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31 Rev. Dr. Mary Wilson

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God God created them; male and female God created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Mark 6:7-13 Rev. Ginny

Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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

***Hymn of Reflection** God Gave This World a Gift Edviado

Prayers for God's Beloved Community Rev. Ginny

Anthem Where There is Love Crane

Reflecting in Community Rev. Dr. Mary Wilson

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 Adagio from concerto in g minor F. Seitz

***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** God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens **NCH 556

***Benediction**

Postlude Menuett from Septet Op. 20 L. van Beethoven

You are invited to be seated and listen to the postlude as our gift to you from the Divine.

After the postlude, you are invited to stay for a time of fellowship.

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!

Leading In Today's Service:

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

Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Amy Harris, Violin

Liz Lee, Cello

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries

Rev. Dr. Mary Wilson, Guest Preacher

** *When we refer to the New Century Hymnal, we use the acronym, NCH.
CCLI# is 11086713*



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.