



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 8/18/2024
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Words for Centering Marge Erin Johnson, UCC Member in Discernment
*I want to be the queer elder I never had.
And I want people to know that they're loved
and to give themselves permission to be ... who God created them to be.*

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

Elegie

Faure

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** Warinda Harris
Friends and neighbors, West Campus is buzzing this morning with students
ready for a new year at UT-Austin!
**That's right! Our student neighbors reflect the wonderful diversity of
God's love within them.**

As they begin a new year of academic rigor, we pray that our church may
provide a nurturing, safe, and affirming community for all to flourish.

**We celebrate their Rainbow Stories of authentically living out who God
created them to be and their companions along the way that will empower
them during this pivotal moment in their lives.**

Just like the Rainbow Story of Ruth and Naomi, who provided companionship to each other during famine, war, and poverty, we celebrate God's love in all its expressions.

So come, let us celebrate the Rainbow Stories in our midst as we worship God, our Divine Companion.

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Micah 6:6-8 Warinda Harris
"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Ruth 1:16-22 Rev. Ginny
But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem.

When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" She said to them, "Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

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

***Hymn of Reflection** I Shall Not Leave from By Your Side Shelton

Prayers for God's Beloved Community Rev. Ginny

Anthem Be in Our Gathering Ford

Reflecting in Community

Rev. Ginny

“Companion Vows ~ The Rainbow Stories of Ruth and Naomi!”

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

Terra Incognita

Geer

*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

Warinda Harris

Gracious God, we dedicate these offerings, given in love and hope, to your work of justice and compassion. Bless the hands that have given and the lives that will be touched, that your peace may accompany us in health and wholeness. May our gifts help create a world where all may flourish in your love, justice, and peace. Amen.

*Sending Song

God Made from One Blood

**NCH427

*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, you are invited to our fellowship time behind the sanctuary. 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!

Leading In Today's Service:

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

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Warinda Harris, Worship Leader

Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Liz Lee, Cello

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries

** *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.