



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 9/1/2024  
**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

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

**Words for Centering**

Caesar Chavez

*We draw our strength from the very despair in which we have been forced to live.  
We shall endure.*

**Ringling of the Bells**

**Prelude**

Air

J. Battishill

**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**

This Little Light of Mine

**\*Call to Worship**

Joy Penticuff

Siblings in Christ, on this Labor Day weekend, what is your prayer for those who labor?

**We pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills and pray even harder for the wealthy who do not care.**

We pray for those oppressed by unjust wages and pray even harder for those who exploit them.

**We pray for those whose basic needs are denied and pray even harder for public officials who cater to the greedy and ignore those bound unjustly.**

On this Labor Day, we pray with our neighbors, who are like the early church in the book of James.

**We know that faith without justice is dead, and so we pray for justice to begin in our own spiritual lives. Come, let us worship the God of all who labor!**

**Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures** Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Joy Penticuff

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!’ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to God? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children—

**Reading of the Christian Scriptures** James 1: 2-4, 9-11 Rev. Ginny

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

Let the believer who is lowly boast in being raised up, and the rich in being brought low, because the rich will disappear like a flower in the field. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the field; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. It is the same way with the rich; in the midst of a busy life, they will wither away.

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

**\*Hymn of Reflection** Somos Pueblo Que Camina \*\*NCH340

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

**Anthem** For the Beauty Patterson

**Reflecting in Community** Faith Without Justice is Dead Rev. Ginny

## **Communion**

### **An Invitation to Everyone**

### **The Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup**

### **A Prayer of Nourishing Love**

#### **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

A. Corell

#### **\*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**

Joy Penticuff

Loving and Just God, we offer these gifts in gratitude for the labors of the working poor and ask your blessing on those who gave and those who will receive your love through them. As we received the sacrament of communion, we ask that you bless the bread and cup to nourish our spirits for service to others. May our offerings and this holy meal empower us to be vessels of your justice and compassion in the world. Amen.

#### **\*Sending Song** If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers

Gillette

*This hymn was written after the church shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas, and is based on the book of James.*

#### **\*Benediction**

Rev. Ginny

#### **Postlude**

Bourrée

J. S. Bach

*You are invited to be seated and listen to the postlude as our gift to you from the Divine. If you are visiting with us, 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*

*Jaime Hadley, Usher and Deputy Deacon*

*Amy Harris, Violin*

*Liz Lee, Cello*

*Laura Martin, Director of Music*

*Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries*

*Joy Penticuff, Worship Leader*

*CCLI# is 11086713*

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

*\*\*\*The Call to Worship was written by Rebecca Sutton, Program Coordinator of Global Women's Exchange in the UCC Worship Ways. It is adapted for us this morning.*



### **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.*