



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 9/15/2024
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Words for Centering

Saint Francis de Sales

I have made a pact with my tongue, not to speak when my heart is disturbed.

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude

Sarabanda

A. Corelli

Welcome and Announcements

*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**

One Foot/Lead with Love

Melanie DeMore

***Call to Worship**

Joy Penticuff

Who is wise and understanding among us?

Those who seek wisdom and understanding each and every day. Those who delight in God and meditate on God's law.

Come, learn more about the wisdom from above, a wisdom that yields a harvest of righteousness.

O God, your wisdom is more precious than jewels! We draw near to you.

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Joy Penticuff

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and

my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reading of the Christian Scriptures James 3:1-12

Britt Hicks

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also, the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or grapevine figs? No more can saltwater yield fresh.

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

***Hymn of Reflection**

God of Grace and God of Glory

**GTG 307

Prayers for God's Beloved Community

Britt Hicks

Anthem

How Can I Keep From Singing

Shaw

Reflecting in Community "Small But Mighty"

Britt Hicks

Silence

Invitation to Generosity

Britt Hicks

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

Lied ohne Worte

F. Mendelssohn

*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

Mysterious One we give you our hands to do your work. We give you our feet to go your way. We give you our tongues to speak your words. We give you our minds that you may think in and through us. We give you our spirit that you may pray through us. Above all, we give you our hearts that you may love through us you and all mankind. We give you our whole self that you may grow in us, so that it is you, Mysterious One, who lives and works and prays through us. Amen.

*Sending Song

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

**NCH 1

*Benediction

Britt Hicks

Postlude

Corrente

A. Corelli

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 our joys and concerns followed by a time of fellowship. 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!

Leading In Today's Service:

Britt Hicks, Guest Preacher

Rev. Sarah Darter, 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

Karen White, Guest Piano

** When we refer to the New Century Hymnal, we use the acronym, NCH.
When we refer to the Glory to God hymnal, we use the acronym, GTG.

***The Prayer of Dedication comes from www.catholicity.com



Welcome, Britt Hicks! Britt graduated from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary last May and continues a residency in Chaplaincy Pastoral Education (CPE). We support Britt as a Member in Discernment at this moment in their ordination journey. Rev. Ginny is away today visiting her family in North Carolina. She will be back on Tuesday.

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.