

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

Sarah Darter, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Amy Harris, Violin

Liz Lee, Cello

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries

Stephen Russell, Worship Leader

Karen White, Guest Pianist

**The Call to Worship is adapted from the UCC Worship Ways for Just Peace Sunday.*

*** 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.



**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 9/22/2024

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Just Peace Sunday

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

Words for Centering

Father Daniel Berrigan

One is called to live nonviolently, even if the change one works for seems impossible.

It may or may not be possible to turn the US around through nonviolent revolution.

But one thing favors such an attempt:

The total inability of violence to change anything for the better.

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude

Andante Cantabile

P. Tchaikovsky

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**

One Foot/Lead with Love

Melanie DeMore

Call to Worship

Stephen Russell

Friends and neighbors, today we honor the United Church of Christ's vision to be a Just Peace Church. Let us hear and respond to God's Just Peace call to seek and live God's peace.

The wars in Ukraine and Gaza have wreaked destruction for way too long with no end in sight. Let us hear and respond to God's Just Peace call to seek and live God's peace.

The killing of huge numbers of people, both military and civilian, which will continue as the quagmire of the current military stalemate is likely to continue. Let us hear and respond to God's Just Peace call to seek and live God's peace.

The epidemic of disproportionate police violence against people of color is unjust. Let us hear and respond to God's Just Peace call to seek and live God's peace.

Economic injustice continues, such as the average White household having 13 times the wealth of the average Black household. Let us hear and respond to God's Just Peace call to seek and live God's peace.

Our world's struggles are real and dangerous. We come to worship the God whose Just Peace forgives, reconciles, and heals us together. Come, let us worship God!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Psalm 1, a Paraphrase by Nan Merrill

Stephen Russell

Blessed are those who walk hand in hand with goodness, who stand beside virtue, who sit in the seat of truth; for their delight is in the Spirit of Love, and in Love's heart they dwell day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, that yield fruit in due season, and their leaves flourish; and in all that they do, they give life. The unloving are not so; they are like dandelions which the wind blows away. Turning from the Heart of Love, they will know suffering and pain. They will be isolated from wisdom; for Love knows the way of truth, the way of ignorance will perish.

Reading of the Christian Scriptures James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Rev. Ginny

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

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

***Hymn of Reflection** God's Actions, Always Good and Just

**NCH 415

Prayers for God's Beloved Community

Rev. Ginny

Anthem

Peace Like a River

Raney

Reflecting in Community

Cancel Conflict, Embody Just Peace!

Rev. Ginny

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

Arioso

J. S. Bach

***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**

Stephen Russell

Gracious God, as we gather our offerings today, may we embody the wisdom that comes from you, reflecting your love in our actions. Help us to seek not our own desires but the well-being of our community, drawing near to you in sincere faith and compassion. May these gifts be a means of justice and healing, as we strive together to create a world where all are welcomed and flourish in your love. Amen.

***Sending Song**

O God, Each Day You Bless Us C.W. Gillette (*please see handout*)

***Benediction**

Rev. Ginny

Postlude

Scherzo from Trio in B-flat

P. Köhler

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 and then a time of fellowship. We are grateful for your presence with us today!