



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 9/8/2024
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Words for Centering

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless.
Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.*

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude

Sheep May Safely Graze

J.S. Bach

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

Michael Ross

Friends and neighbors of the Congregational Church of Austin. As we continue our sermon series from the book of James we do so with the invitation: Come, if you are willing.

Come, if you are willing, but be prepared to find yourself sitting next to your worst enemy.

Come, if you are willing, but be prepared to find yourself offering prayer with someone whose values and way of life revolt you.

Come, if you are willing, but be prepared to find in yourself scary places and thoughts, that you would prefer to remain unacknowledged.

Come, if you are willing, but be prepared for an uncertainty that will not quickly be resolved, for a discomfort that will not easily be salved, for a hunger that will not willingly be satisfied.

Come, if you are willing, to this worship service where faith without justice is dead. Come, let us worship God!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Michael Ross

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all. Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Reading of the Christian Scriptures James 2:14-26

Rev. Ginny

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren?

Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road?

For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

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

***Hymn of Reflection** For the Healing of the Nations **NCH 476

Prayers for God's Beloved Community Rev. Ginny

Anthem Namaste Hayes

Reflecting in Community Rev. Ginny
Thoughts and Prayers or Action...Faith Without Justice is Dead!

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 Waltz Op.64 No.2 Chopin

***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** Michael Ross
Gracious God, we dedicate these gifts, knowing that faith without justice is dead. May our offerings be a living testament of our love, as we serve those in need with compassion and justice. Bless these gifts and those who will be touched by them, that together we may embody your active love in the world. Amen.

***Sending Song** O for a World **NCH 575

***Benediction** Rev. Ginny

Postlude Danse Debussy

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 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

Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries

Michael Ross, Worship Leader

** The Call to Worship is adapted from Liturgies from Below: Praying with the People at the Ends of the World.*

*** 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.