

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

Amy Harris, Violin

Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Liz Lee, Cello

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries

Carolyn Thompson, Worship Leader

This worship service is from the 2024 Access Sunday resources of the UCC Disabilities Ministries Network.

****** *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.*

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 10/13/2024

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Access Sunday

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

Words for Centering

Dr. Amy Kenny

My wheels liberate me and allow me to operate in tandem with my scooter, Diana.

Her tires grip the pavement, absorbing the shock waves

That my legs would otherwise have to endure.

I lean into her slightly as we curve around a corner,

Like water gently caressing the riverbank as it flows.

I feel the texture of the earth, the rhythm of the cement.

I hear the symphony of vibrations as we drift from concrete to cobblestone.

*My physicality does not stop at the tip of my toes or the crown of my head;
It extends to the frame of my cobalt chair, able to transport me to new worlds.*

I am body, wheels, and fire.

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

***Hymn of Celebration**

We are Marching in the Light of God

**NCH526

***Call to Worship**

Carolyn Thompson

Friends and neighbors, on this Access Sunday, why have you come to worship?

We come to worship the Disabled God, searching for an experience of hope and belonging.

God holds each of our disabilities in sacred love and connection.

When the world around us tries to cast us out, we find belonging and belovedness in our Disabled God's embrace.

As we worship this day, may our search for Divine Love deepen our faith and lead us one step closer to God's Kingdom.

So come, let us worship our Disabled God, confident in God's work within, among, around, and through us.

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Rev. Ginny

Then Job answered: "Today also my complaint is bitter; God's hand is heavy despite my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to God's dwelling! I would lay my case before God and fill my mouth with arguments. I would learn what God would answer me and understand what God would say to me. Would God contend with me in the greatness of God's power? No; but God would give heed to me. There an upright person could reason with God, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge. If I go forward, God is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive God; on the left God hides, and I cannot behold God; I turn to the right, but I cannot see God."

God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!

Reading of the Christian Scriptures

Hebrews 4:12-16

Carolyn Thompson

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before God no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Child of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

***Hymn of Reflection**

Patience of Job

Bekah Maren Anderson and Jacob Nault

Prayers of Reconciliation for Our Body, Mind, and Soul

Rev. Ginny

This prayer was written by Carolyn Thompson in 1999.

Anthem

Why God?

Chopin

Reflecting in Community

Impatience with Ableism

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

Prelude

F. 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**

Carolyn Thompson

Giver of All Gifts, we know that we are called to give up what we have and follow you. We are called to live in such a way that everyone has enough. When we find ourselves with more than we need, call us to give. When we find ourselves with less than we need, nudge us to ask for help. And may our gifts of time, talent, treasure, and prayer be always used to care for your people. Amen.

***Sending Song**

Amazing Grace with new verse by Jacob Nault

***Benediction**

Rev. Ginny

Postlude

Finale from Trio in B-flat

J. Haydn

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!