

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

Victor Cardenas, Custodian

Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Amy Harris, Violin

Liz Lee, Cello

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries

Kay Pruett, Worship Leader

** 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.

If you would rather remain seated and participate, simply lift your hand and an usher will bring you an offering plate and prayer ribbon. Please participate as much or as little as you choose.



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 11/10/2024

25th Sunday After Pentecost

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

Words for Centering

Cole Arthur Riley, Black Liturgies (written on 11-6-24)

Seeing an overwhelming amount of "well let's get to work" attempts to rally and encourage. Maybe there are some of us who need the urgency of a mission in order to survive. I'm trying to honor that. But some of us are a different kind of exhausted. I keep thinking, do we even get a day?

Just because you've braced yourself for the worst, doesn't mean it's any less terrible when it comes. Whatever you thought might come, today is for grief. For sadness, anger. Today is not for shallow platitudes and sentimental pep talks. Nor is it the time to immediately demand more work from Black women and those who have given their bodies and time to attempt to redirect the ship to shore. We have given so much. Tend to the wounds. Rest some. Breathe as deeply as one can in a country that kneels on our throats daily and makes no apologies. Breathing with you.

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

Improvisation on "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

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**

We Walk in Love

Please see insert

***Call to Worship**

Kay Pruett

Friends and neighbors, after the intensity of this election season in our nation, what better way to renew our bodies, minds, and souls than to worship together!

The prophet Ezra reminds us that there are cries among us that are both cries of joy and people's weeping.

God's steadfast love endures forever!

Jesus reminds us that all institutions of this world have the potential to crumble. And God is still creating God's love and justice within us.

God's steadfast love endures forever!

So come, let us be renewed together in the healing reminder that God's steadfast love endures forever! Come, let us worship God.

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Ezra 3:10-13

Rev. Ginny

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, "For God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever toward Israel." And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

Reading of the Christian Scriptures

Mark 13:1-8

Kay Pruett

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

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

***Hymn of Reflection**

How Firm a Foundation

**NCH407

Generosity Testimonial

Kay Pruett

Prayers for God's Beloved Community

Rev. Ginny

Anthem

This is My Song

Larson

Reflecting in Community

The Cathartic Cry We All Need

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

How Great Thou Art

arr. Paul Basler

Performed by Kaia Santos, a student of Laura Martin, who will hold her recital at CCA on November 21.

***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**

Kay Pruett

God of steadfast love, as we dedicate these gifts, we offer our gratitude for the foundations of hope and justice you are laying in our midst. As our hearts are weeping, we trust in your enduring presence, guiding us toward your vision of peace for all. Bless these offerings that they may build a future where your love and justice prevail. Amen.

***Sending Song**

By the Streams of Babylon

C. Winfrey Gillette

***Benediction**

Rev. Ginny

Postlude

Improvisation on Lift Every Voice and Sing

You are invited to be seated and listen to the postlude as our gift to you from the Divine. After the postlude, we will have a time of joys and concerns and prayer.