



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 11/17/2024

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Generosity Sunday

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

Words for Centering

Dr. Maya Angelou

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude

Improvisation on "Take my Gifts"

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**

Kevin Dietz

Siblings in Christ, I brought my baskets and I am ready for the harvest at the
Congregational Church of Austin!

**Kevin, we're glad you're ready for worship but there's no need for all of
your baskets.**

But today is Generosity Sunday! This is the day that we celebrate all of the
ways our church makes a difference in people's lives inside our church and beyond
West Campus. I need these baskets to gather all of these rich stories together for
our worship service!

**That's a great idea on this Generosity Sunday! Let's honor the ways God
has called us to make a difference in people's lives with our ministries of
inclusive love!**

I want to invest my money, time, and skills to the Church ministry baskets, which include Central Texas Interfaith, music for our worship, the nursery for our children, our UCC offerings, and so much more!

So come with our baskets of money, time, skills, and ministries and let us celebrate how God has called the Congregational Church of Austin to make a difference in the world on this Generosity Sunday and every day!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 16

**NCH page 628

Kevin Dietz

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Mark 12:38-44

Rev. Ginny

As Jesus taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.

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

Generosity Testimonial

Kevin Dietz

***Hymn of Reflection**

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

**NCH539

Prayers for God's Beloved Community

Rev. Ginny

Anthem

For the Beauty

Alonso

Reflecting in Community

The Art of Mutual Generosity

Rev. Ginny

Commitment and Blessing of the 2025 CCA Pledge Cards

Rev. Ginny

We have been blessed with God's love in many forms throughout our lives. This morning, you are invited to consider pledging what you can give to the Congregational Church of Austin, UCC, financially and with your time and energy for the upcoming year. Members and friends of CCA are invited to come forward with your family and turn in your pledge card as well as your weekly offering in the offering plate.

If you are visiting with us, we welcome you to participate as much or as little as is comfortable for you. We will have blank cards so that everyone can share one thing they commit to generously doing in 2025 to further God's love in the world. You don't have to put anything in the offering plate. You are invited to come forward and make a commitment to God that you will seek to be more generous in your life in this upcoming year or you can simply remain in your seat in prayer.

Offertory Music

Larghetto from Krönungskonzert

W. A. Mozart

***Doxology**

Please see back of bulletin

***Prayer of Dedication**

Kevin Dietz

Holy and Gracious God, we gather today with hearts full of gratitude for the blessings that flow through this community of faith.

On this Generosity Sunday, we offer these pledge cards to you as symbols of our commitment to love, justice, and peace.

Bless each card virtual and onsite, each family, each pledge, and the hands that prepared them. May these promises reflect the abundance of your love and the strength of our shared vision.

We ask that you inspire us with courage and creativity, to give boldly, to serve joyfully, and to trust in the work we can do together.

May these offerings support the flourishing of all people, the pursuit of justice, and the building of a world where love guides every step.

In our giving, may we embody your spirit of generosity, so that your Beloved Community of compassion and wholeness may take root and grow in our lives and our world. Amen.

***Sending Song**

Take My Life and Let It Be

NCH448

***Benediction**

Rev. Ginny

Postlude

Autumn and Winter

A. Glazounow

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. If you are visiting with us, 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!

Leading In Today's Service:

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Interim Pastor and Teacher

Victor Cardenas, Custodian

Kevin Dietz, Worship Leader

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

** *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.

Doxology

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.