

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

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

Reuel Nash, 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 11/24/2024

Reign of Christ Sunday

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

Words for Centering

Chief Seattle, 1854

"Humankind has not woven the web of life.

We are but one thread within it.

Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

All things are bound together. All things connect."

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

Improvisation on "For the Fruit of All Creation"

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

Reuel Nash

Siblings in Christ, this is the day our God has made! Let us rejoice and be thankful!

We are thankful that we can gather with our family or family of choice to celebrate God's harvest of love in our lives!

We are thankful that today represents the Reign of Christ, who models for us an advocate for God's justice, equity, and Divine Liberator of all.

We are thankful that Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the One who was and is and is to come.

We are thankful that God calls us to be glad and rejoice as a reminder that God will never leave us.

So come, let us honor the Reign of Christ as we seek to embody God's justice and love for all. Come, let us worship God!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Joel 2:21-27 Reuel Nash

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for God has given the early rain for your vindication, God has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Revelation 1:4b-8 Rev. Ginny

Grace to you and peace from God who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before God's throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To God who loves us and freed us from our sins by God's blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving God's God and Parent, to God be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! God is coming with the clouds; every eye will see God, even those who pierced God; and on God's account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

***Hymn of Reflection** Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing **NCH303

Prayers for God's Beloved Community Rev. Ginny

Anthem Simple Gifts Copeland

Reflecting in Community Gratitude as Resistance Rev. Ginny

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 Intermezzo Sinfonico Mascagni

***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** Reuel Nash

Loving God, as we offer these gifts on Reign of Christ Sunday, we give thanks for Christ's reign of justice and radical hospitality that frees us to live in love. May these offerings help create a world where the hungry are fed, the oppressed are lifted, and peace prevails. In this time of thanksgiving, may our hearts and hands follow Christ's example of service and compassion. Amen.

***Sending Song** Come O Thankful People Come NCH422

***Benediction** Rev. Ginny

Postlude Rondo from Trio #2 F. Haydn

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!