



**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 1/12/2025
First Sunday After Epiphany**

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

Words for Centering Amanda Gorman, 2017 US National Youth Poet Laureate
*For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude Improvisation on "Give Thanks for Light"

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** Morningstar (verses 1-2) *Please see insert*
*You are the Morningstar, you are the Fountain,
Life-breathing Spirit, hope from the mountain.
We sing for joy of you, while our souls cling to you.
You are the Morningstar.*

*In dry and weary lands, you give us water,
greeting each wanderer as child, son or daughter.
We sing for joy of you, while our souls cling to you.
You are the Morningstar.
We sing for joy of you, while our souls cling to you.
You are the Morningstar.*

***Call to Worship**

Carolyn Thompson

Friends and neighbors, welcome to the Congregational Church of Austin! Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world! What a joy it is to receive your light on this January morning!

We agree! We welcome the sunlight and chill in the air; we welcome the light we feel as we connect with friends after a long week.

We welcome the Holy Awareness that illuminates our lives through ideas, art, conversations, and visions of a better way to love one another.

So come, let us welcome God's light and worship the Holy Awareness within and among us!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 36:5-10 Carolyn Thompson

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Matthew 5: 14-16

Rev. Ginny

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket but on the lampstand and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Parent in heaven.

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

***Hymn of Reflection**

Christ, Be Our Light

**GTG314

Prayers for God's Beloved Community

Rev. Ginny

Anthem

Rise Up Shepherd, Go Tell It!

Larson

Reflecting in Community

Are We a City on a Hill?

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

Berceuse de Jocelyn

B. Godard

***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

Gracious God, we dedicate these gifts and ourselves to your radiant love, that we might shine with the light of Christ in every corner of the world. May our offerings kindle hope, justice, and peace, reflecting your glory for all to see. Let us never hide the light of your Spirit but boldly share it to illuminate the path for others. Amen.

***Sending Song**

This Little Light of Mine

NCH524

***Benediction**

Rev. Ginny

Go now, carrying the holy awareness of Christ's presence, a light that shines in hope and love.

We will let our holy awareness shine, reflecting God's justice and peace.

Do not hide this sacred awareness or your light under a bushel, but share them boldly and freely.

We will carry the light of Christ and holy awareness into every place and every moment.

Let your lives glorify God, inspiring others to walk in holy awareness and light.

With joy and courage, we will shine brightly, sharing God's love for all.

Go in peace, to let your light and holy awareness shine!

Amen and amen!

Postlude

Allegro animato from Trio in F

N. Gad

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!
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
Carolyn Thompson, Worship Leader

** *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.