

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

Lynn Chavarria and Rev. Sarah Darter, Deacons

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Amy Harris, Violin

Roberto Hernández, Worship Leader

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. Our Advent theme, Hymn of Celebration, and Doxology lyrics were created by Dr. Marcia McFee.

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 1/5/2025 **Epiphany Sunday**

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

Words for Centering

Kate Compston

My singing heart, my days' doxology, my gold, I bring for celebration.

My stillness, my glimpses of serenity, my frankincense, I bring for meditation.

My brokenness, my tears of rage and sorrow, my myrrh, I bring for sacrifice.

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude

Improvisation on "Savior God Above"

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

Please see insert

*Call to Worship

Roberto Hernández

Siblings in Christ, what better way to welcome 2025 than to worship together as a faith community.

We celebrate the opportunities we have in this new year to live into who God has created us to be.

Like the writer of Isaiah who encouraged people to see God's light for a new day, we are also encouraged to see God's presence for this new year.

On this Epiphany Sunday, we recognize the light God gives us in order to become aware of all people in God's creation.

Awareness is like the Magi's bright star that led them to God's love in Jesus. When we are aware of the goodness in others, it will guide our journey together.

So come, let us celebrate God's presence in this new year and worship the Holy Awareness within all of God's creation!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Isaiah 60:1-6 Roberto Hernández
Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and royalty to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Matthew 2:1-12 Rev. Ginny
In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

***Hymn of Reflection** What Star is This **GTG152

Prayer for God's Beloved Community Rev. Ginny

Anthem Brightest and Best Kirchner

Reflecting in Community The Awareness We Give Rev. Ginny

Communion
An Invitation to Everyone
The Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup
A Prayer of Nourishing Love

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 Vidui (Contrition) E. Bloch

***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** Roberto Hernández
Illuminating God, we dedicate these gifts to your work in the world. May they radiate throughout your creation as signs of your justice, love, and hope. Bless the hands that give and the lives that will be touched by these offerings. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

***Sending Song** Good Christians Friends Rejoice! **NCH129

***Benediction** Rev. Ginny
Postlude December from The Seasons Tchaikovsky
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!