



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 2/2/2025  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany**

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

**Words for Centering**

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, How We Learn to be Brave

*The courage to be brave when it matters most requires a lifetime of small  
decisions that set us on a path of self-awareness, attentiveness, and willingness to  
risk failure for what we believe is right.*

**Ringing of the Bells**

**Prelude**

Improvisation on Hymn of Promise

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

*If you are visiting for the first time, we are so glad you have joined us!*

**\*Hymn of Celebration**

We'll Build a World

Lohman

**\*Call to Worship**

Rev. Sarah Darter

Come, beloved community, let us gather as we honor the sacredness of  
diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**Let us embrace the call to love in action, for without love, our words are  
but a clanging cymbal.**

In a world that struggles with division, God calls us to the deeper way of  
love—celebrating the beauty of each person, created in the image of God, with  
gifts and stories that enrich our shared life.

**We are here to practice that love, creating a space where God reveals a  
vision of wholeness—a table where all are welcomed, and no one is  
marginalized as DEI.**

Let us open our hearts to this sacred work, for love never ends, and in love, we find God among us.

**Come, Holy Spirit, and unite us in your diversity, equity, and inclusion. Come, let us worship God.**

**Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures**                      Jeremiah 4:1-10                      Rev. Ginny

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.” Then the Lord put out God’s hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

**Reading of the Christian Scriptures** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13    Rev. Sarah Darter

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

**\*Hymn of Reflection**      Let Us Break Bread Together      \*\*GTG525

**Prayers for God’s Beloved Community**      Rev. Ginny

**Anthem**      Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me      arr. Scott

**Reflecting in Community**      The Sacredness of DEI!      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.*

**The Sacrament of Communion**

**Offertory Music**      The Deserted Garden      F. Price

**\*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**      Rev. Sarah Darter  
 Holy and Inclusive God, we dedicate these gifts as a reflection of your boundless love, which embraces every person and celebrates every story. Use them to create spaces of diversity, equity, and belonging, where all may flourish in the sacredness of your community. Bless our offering and our hearts, that we may live out your vision of love in action. Amen.

**\*Sending Song**      In the Midst of New Dimensions      NCH391

**\*Benediction**      Rev. Ginny

**Postlude**      Perfume de Gardenia      R. Hernandez  
*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.*

*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*

*Rev. Sarah Darter, Worship Leader*

*Jonathan Geer, Piano*

*Amy Harris, Violin*

*Roberto Hernández, Rev. Sarah Darter, Lynn Chavarria, Deacons*

*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.  
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.*