



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 2/16/2025

Sixth Sunday of Epiphany
Black History Month

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

Words for Centering

Caroline Belden

*Equality is leaving the door open for anyone who has the means to approach it;
Equity is ensuring there is a pathway to that door for those who need it.*

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude

Warum?

R. Schumann

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!*

Connecting to the Divine Within Our Breath

*I inhale your peace
I exhale your love and justice*

*** Hymn of Celebration**

We'll Build a World

Lohman

Call to Worship

Lucy Erda

Come, people of God, to a place where justice and healing meet. Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of God.

Come, those who are starving now, for they will be filled.

Come, builders of peace, to the sanctuary of God's love. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Come, all who long for a world where every person is valued, every voice is heard.

Blessed are those who weep and are hated by others who do not respect God's image within them, for they shall rejoice.

In justice and joy, we lift our voices in praise! Let us worship the One who calls us to the sacred work of equity, where all may flourish in God's love.

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 Lucy Erda

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Luke 6:17-26 Rev. Ginny

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Child of Humanity. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

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

Hymn of Reflection** We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky *NCH563**

Prayers for God's Beloved Community Rev. Ginny

Anthem O for a Thousand Tongues

Reflecting in Community The Sacredness of Equity! 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

Adoration

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**

Lucy Erda

God of blessing and justice, we dedicate these gifts to the work of Your kingdom, that they may bring comfort to the mourning, hope to the poor, and justice to the oppressed. May they nourish those who hunger and thirst for righteousness and sow peace in places of division. Bless our giving and our living, that we may embody the Beatitudes in all we do. Amen.

***Sending Song**

Blessed are the Poor Among You Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

***Benediction**

Rev. Ginny

Postlude

Allegro from Sonata III

Chevalier de Saint-George

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:

Cecile Adam, Lynn Chavarria, Sarah Darter, Roberto Hernández Deacons
Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Interim Pastor and Teacher
Victor Cardenas, Custodian
Lucy Erda, Worship Leader
Jonathan Geer, Piano
Amy Harris, Violin
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.

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.