



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 2/23/2025
7th Sunday of Epiphany
Black History Month

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

Words for Centering

Langston Hughes

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

Plenty of Fish in the Sea

Geer

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**

Pam Tucker

Siblings in Christ, why have you come to worship this morning?

**We come to be rooted in God's love, to thirst for justice, and to embrace
the sacredness of all people.**

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose hope is in God!

**In the spirit of Black History Month, we honor the resilience of those
who have fought for justice and the full inclusion of all, especially our
LGBTQIA+ siblings.**

Let us worship the God who nourishes us, calls us to belonging, and makes us a people of radical love.

May the roots of God's justice be nourished in our time together. Come, let us worship God!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Jeremiah 17:5-8 Pam Tucker

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green. In the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Luke 6:27-31 Rev. Ginny

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

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

***Hymn of Reflection** With Open Hearts *Please see insert*

Prayers for God's Beloved Community Rev. Ginny

Anthem The Dream Keeper Dilworth

Reflecting in Community The Sacredness of Inclusion and Belonging!

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

Mother and Child

Still

***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**

Pam Tucker

God of abundant love, we offer these gifts as seeds of justice, that all may flourish in your embrace. May they nourish the weary, uplift the excluded, and build a just world where all are seen and valued. Bless our giving, that we may be rooted in your living water and bear the fruits of love, equity, and inclusion. Amen.

***Sending Song**

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

**NCH588

***Benediction**

Rev. Ginny

Beloved, there is only love. In you, only love. Around you, only love.

Not a touchy-feely, pop song kind of love.

But a love that knows every secret corner
of your fragile, fabulous being and says, "Yes!"

"Yes!" to your difference.

"Yes!" to your diversity.

"Yes!" to your desire.

Whoever you are, whatever beautiful spirit
God created you to be, shine fearlessly and courageously.

We need you
and the divine light within you
to sparkle through the prism of your body
and brighten the world
with a glorious rainbow.
Never forget you are loved.
Fiercely and forever.

Postlude

African Dancer

Still

*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.*

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, Rev. Sarah Darter, Lynn Chavarria, Deacons

Liz Lee, Cello

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries

Pam Tucker, Worship Leader

*** When we refer to the New Century Hymnal, we use the acronym, NCH. CCLI# is 11086713. The Hymn of Reflection is from Songs for the Holy Other. The Benediction is written by the Rev. Sam Lundquist, a queer pastor and writer*



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.