



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 2/9/2025

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany ~ Racial Justice Sunday

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

Words for Centering

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, III

*When we choose to embody our faith, people won't see us,
But they will see the God working in us.*

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

Improvisation on Called As Partners in Christ's Service

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**

Kay Pruett

Friends and neighbors, as we continue to honor Black History Month, what is your prayer today?

O God of Solidarity, thank you for being a God, who enters the suffering of the world not running from those in pain but rushing to the site of blood and tears.

Show us when the voices of the vulnerable are being drowned out by the cacophony of the privileged.

Release us from our empty cravings for unity that come at no cost to the oppressor. Lead us toward spaces of costly advocacy.

Make our diversity known in a world that perpetually eclipses the voices of the marginalized. Guide us into a solidarity that demands something of us.

Let us honor our ancestors of Ella Baker, and Medgar Evers, Audre Lorde and James Baldwin, by speaking truth to those who seek to ban or remove us from our nation's ethos.

And let us stand with Isabel Wilkinson, Henry Louis Gates, Karen Georgia Thompson, and Otis Moss who continue to lead us toward your Beloved Community now.

Secure us in the courage to resist, persevere, and advocate for your justice. Come let us worship God.

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 138

Kay Pruett

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Matthew 23:1-3, 6-14, 25-26 Rev. Ginny

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach."

"They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your parent on earth, for you have one Parent, the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted."

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them... Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean."

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

***Hymn of Reflection**

Our Legacies

Words: John Campbell, Tune: Aurelia

Prayers for God's Beloved Community

Rev. Ginny

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

Cecile Adam, Roberto Hernández, Sarah Darter, Lynn Chavarria, Deacons

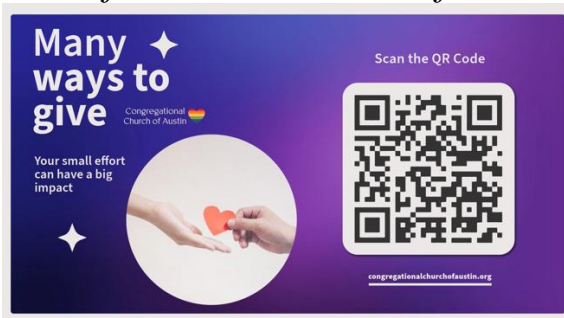
Liz Lee, Cello

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries

Kay Pruett, Worship Leader

** *When we refer to the Glory to God Hymnal, we use the acronym, GTG.
CCLI# is 11086713 Portions of the Call to Worship was written by Cole Arthur Riley, Black Liturgies The Benediction was written by the Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Minister for Racial Justice of the UCC.*



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.