



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 3/16/2025

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**Women's Herstory Month**

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

**Words for Centering**

Dr. Diana Butler Bass

*We are safer and happier when we care for each other in community,  
when we do things for each other.*

**Ringling of the Bells**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Liz Nash

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

**\*Hymn of Celebration**

I Believe

*Please see insert*

**\*Call to Worship**

Liz Nash

Friends and neighbors, our lives find meaning when they are built on God's love. We come this morning, seeking the foundation of God's compassion.

**In the stillness, God grants rest to the weary. In the quiet, we listen for God's voice.**

From stillness, God calls us into solidarity— to build communities of justice, to shelter one another in love.

**Come, let us the worship God, who moves us from stillness to solidarity!**

**Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures**

Psalm 127

Liz Nash

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil, for God gives sleep to God's beloved.

Children are indeed a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Happy is the one who has a quiver full of them. That person shall not be put to shame when speaking with enemies in the gate.

**Reading of the Christian Scriptures** Ephesians 6:1-4

Liz Nash

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with a promise: that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

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

**Anthem**

How Long?

**Lenten Prayer of Stillness** Be Still and Know that I am God

Liz Nash

*Be Still and Know That I Am God**Be Still and Know That I Am**Be Still and Know**Be Still**Be***Prayers for God's Beloved Community**

Liz Nash

**\*Hymn of Reflection**

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns

\*\*NCH212

**Reflecting in Community***Susannah (Annesley) Wesley**b. January 20, 1669 - dec. July 23, 1742**An Extraordinary Mother Used by God**A Drama Presentation by Rev. Sarah Darter*

## Silence

### Invitation to Generosity

Liz Nash

*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

#### \*Doxology

Old Hundredth

*Praise God from whom all blessings  
Praise God all creatures here  
Praise God for all that love has  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.*

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

Liz Nash

God of steadfast love, we dedicate these gifts to your work of justice, mercy, and peace. May they be a sign of your sheltering presence, gathering all people in your care. Bless both the givers and receivers, that all may flourish in your abundant love.

#### \*Sending Song

Jesus – the Very Thought of Me

NCH507

#### \*Benediction

Liz Nash

### Postlude

*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:**

*Rev. Sarah Darter, Guest Preacher*

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

*Laura Martin, Director of Music*

*Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries*

*Rev. Dr. Liz Nash, Worship Leader*

\*\* *When we refer to the New Century Hymnal, we use the acronym, NCH.  
CCLI# is 11086713*

*Rev. Ginny is on vacation. She will be back on Tuesday! Thank you, Rev. Sarah Darter, for your leadership this morning!*



### **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.*