

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

Maimy Fong, Piano

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

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries

Reuel Nash, Worship Leader

** 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.

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.



**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 3/9/2025

Sunday of Epiphany

From Stillness to Solidarity: Christ's Imago Dei in 2025

Women's Herstory Month

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

Words for Centering Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, first Black woman ordained as an Episcopal priest

Hope is a song in a weary throat.

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude

Siciliano

J. S. Bach arr. I Friedman

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**

I Believe

Please see insert

***Call to Worship**

Reuel Nash

On this first Sunday of Lent, let us come into this sacred space where stillness meets solidarity, where fear gives way to faith.

We gather, weary from the anxiousness of our times—layoffs looming, restrictions tightening, identities questioned—yet we come seeking the presence of the Holy.

Jesus stood in the synagogue and proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed.

We stand with Christ, expanding the circle of belonging, widening the table of hospitality, proclaiming God's justice in the face of exclusion.

In this time of worship, we move from stillness to solidarity, from silence to prophetic witness, from fear to the liberating love of Christ.

Come, let us worship the Inclusive Christ, who models the way of God's justice, peace, and love for us.

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Psalm 91 Reuel Nash

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." For God will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. God will cover you with pinions, and under God's wings you will find refuge; God's faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For God will command angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.

Reading of the Christian Scriptures Luke 4:16-21 Rev. Ginny

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

***Hymn of Reflection** Our God Our Help in Ages Past ** GTG687

Lenten Prayer of Stillness Be Still and Know that I am God Rev. Ginny

Prayers for God's Beloved Community Rev. Ginny

Anthem Draw the Circle Light

Reflecting in Community Jesus Said 'All Y'all' ~ Inclusion in 2025 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 Allemande from G Major French Suite J.S. Bach

***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** Reuel Nash

God of justice, peace, and boundless love, in the stillness of our worship, we dedicate these gifts to the work of inclusion, compassion, and liberation. May they be a sign of solidarity with the poor and marginalized, widening the circle of belonging and hope. Bless what we offer, that through us, Christ's vision of justice and love may take root in the world. Amen.

***Sending Song** Live into Hope GTG772

***Benediction** Rev. Ginny

Postlude Allegro from Suite no. 8 G.F. Handel

*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!*