

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Psalm 8

REFLECTING

When every line speaks the language of love
It never held the meaning I was thinking of
And I lost the line between right or wrong
I just want to find the place where I belong

Why should you know better by now
When you're old enough not to?
I wish I knew better by now
When I'm old enough not to.

Beth Orton

Self-understanding seeks to comprehend my existence. What do I supremely care for? What do I dream of, aspire to? Facing myself as I am here and now I discover gold as well as dross. What I come upon as I delve within myself is twilight, confusion, contentment as well as not knowing what is ultimately worth striving for.

Abraham Joshua Heschel

SHARING OUR LIVES IN PRAYER,

SHARING CHRIST'S MEAL

REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

In silence and stillness, reflect on who has arrived for worship this morning.
What thoughts and feelings, joys and concerns, have you brought with you?

SHARING FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR LIVES

If the Spirit is moving you to share a thought or feeling, joy or concern, please do so now, so we may lift it together in prayer

OPENING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

Insert

REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS

BLESSING THE MEAL

SINGING BEFORE SHARING THE MEAL *As We Gather at Your Table*

Black Hymnal 332

SHARING THE MEAL AND PRAYING AT THE PRAYER NET

All who love Jesus Christ are invited to share in this meal. Please come forward as the trio plays, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and eat it as an act of holy union with Christ and his covenant community. If you would like to tie a prayer tie onto our prayer net, please do so after eating the bread you've dipped in the cup.

Trio Improvisation on *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

GIVING THANKS FOR THE MEAL

God who is inseparable from all that lives, whose spirit is the breath of life, we open our hearts to you and pour out our deepest gratitude. From the mystery of your creative spirit come sun and rain, soil and air, grain and grape, and all that sustains our lives. From the mystery of your life and light come Jesus and his self-giving love, and all who gather together seeking new life with him. We give you thanks for the bread and the juice, for Jesus and one another. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Siciliana*

Veracini

*PRAISING GOD

tune: Lasst uns erfreuen

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.

*DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS TO GOD

DEPARTING TO PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*SINGING A HYMN *Community of Christ*

Black Hymnal 314

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *I Will Trust in the Lord*

Black Hymnal 416

*PARTING WITH A SONG *To God Compose a Song of Joy*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In response to the rise of Islamophobia in our nation, our church is participating in the **Interfaith Action for Human Rights** banner project by hanging a banner that says, "We Stand With Our Muslim Neighbors."

The **rainbow stole** on the pulpit is in support of the struggle of all **LGBTQ** people for equity and justice, and for a life that is free from prejudice, intimidation, and violence.

It's that time again! The **"Every Once in a While Talent Show at the Congregational Church of Austin"** is scheduled to take place **Friday, February 24th**, beginning with cups of soup at 6 pm. Nodie Murphy is still signing up acts for the show, reminding folks that the performances should be family-friendly and less than three minutes long. We will be raising money for a yet-to-be determined cause, so bring bills of various quantities to throw into the basket.

Our church **Discipleship Group** will meet on Wednesday, February 8, at 7:30 pm.

The **Season of Lent** begins in March. Tom invites you to join him after worship during the Sundays in Lent to reflect on **Anthony de Mello's "A Spiritual Biography."** Copies are available in Fellowship Hall.

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Gail Christeson and John Goff
Fellowship Hosts Board of Deacons

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The **Adult Christian Education Group** meets Sundays at 10:00 am on the 2nd floor.

Middle School and High School Students remain in the service the first Sunday of each month; other Sundays their Sunday School begins after the Choral Anthem.

Elementary Sunday School is held during the 11:00 am service, immediately following "Time with Children." The children will be escorted from the Sanctuary to the 2nd floor Christian Education room, and can be picked up from there after the service.

Infant and Toddler Care is available throughout the service in the Nursery. Child care begins at 9:15 am for the parents of children attending choir practice or the Adult Christian Education Group.

Children's bulletins and crayons are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, UCC

408 West 23rd Street (512) 472-2370 office
Austin, TX 78705-5214 (512) 472-1175 fax
ucausti@swbell.net
<http://congregationalchurchofaustin.org>

Rev. Thomas J VandeStadt	Pastor
Nodie Murphy	Music Director
Rev. Van Herd	Adult Christian Education
Rev. Amelia Fulbright	Labyrinth Student Ministry
Jonathan Geer	Piano
Amy Harris	Violin
Tony Rogers	Cello
Amy Rivera	Sunday School Teacher
Victor Cardenas	Custodian

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons, TBD
Coordinating Council, TBAD

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

an Open and Affirming Church
of The United Church of Christ

February 5, 2017
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany



GATHERING

Community of Christ, look past the church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

Shirley Erena Murray

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *Legende*

Prokofieff

*GATHERING AS A COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

Community of Christ,
we gather to eat Christ's bread, to drink from Christ's cup,
that we may live in holy union with God, one another,
and all whom God loves.

*Including the refugee, the hungry, and the poor,
the oppressed, the jobless, and those
whose feet are blistered, dirty and tired.*

Sisters and brothers, may what we do inside our door...

lead us to minister with Christ's love to those outside our door.

*SINGING A HYMN *I Am the Light of the World*

Black Hymnal 584