

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS WITH JOY

Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you promise, by the grace of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to be Jesus Christ's disciple, to accept and to express Jesus Christ's love, wisdom, mercy, humility, and forgiveness in your daily life?

I do.

Do you promise to resist the powers at work in this world that oppress and exploit God's people and do harm to God's creation, and to work with passion and diligence to create a world that is just and peaceful.

I do.

Do you promise to continue growing, developing, and maturing in your Christian faith, and to participate as fully as you are able in the life of this church by sharing regularly in our worship, participating in our life together, and reaching out to the world with us?

I do.

By your baptism, you were made one with us in the Body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith today.

Let us, the members of the Congregational Church of Austin, UCC, express our welcome and affirm our shared ministry in Christ.

*We welcome you with joy into the life of this church,
and we promise you our friendship and prayers.*

*By the power of the Holy Spirit,
may we continue to grow together in God's love.*

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE WORLD

REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

SHARING FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR LIVES

OPENING OURSELVES IN PRAYER AND PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *We Are Servants of God* Rommereim

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Matthew 5: 38-48

REFLECTING

We think we know who we are and what our lives are about. But suppose we don't. Suppose our lives are not what we think they are; suppose something else is going on, deep streams flowing underground that come to the surface only now and again, in little springs or freshets or maybe only in telltale spots of moisture where weeds or scraggly flowers grow. And suppose that the task of our lives is not so much to shape or control our stories so that they will turn out according to our preference or preconception but rather to recognize that our stories, the visible images of our lives, are cover stories, narratives that hide within them deeper, underground narratives, that we can sense and taste now and again but never fully comprehend.

Norman Fisher

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio "Vivace" from *Sonata in D Major*

Buxtehude

*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 *O God in Whom All Life Begins* Black Hymnal 401

*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 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

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.

This afternoon at 1 pm, Micah 6 will hold a dedication of the Food Pantry space in memory of Dan Robertson, past President of Micah 6 and long-time board member. He died suddenly two years ago and is missed profoundly. The celebration of his life and the dedication of the Food Pantry in his name will be held downstairs at **University Presbyterian**. A light lunch will be served.

Texas Impact Weekly Witness will focus on Public Education tomorrow at noon. More information here: <https://texasimpact.org/Weekly-Witness>. For a legislative update, click here: <http://texasimpact.org/content/legislative-update-february-10-2017>

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 Huston-Tillotson University, so bring bills of various quantities to throw into the basket. (Checks are good, too!)

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 "The Testament."** Copies are available in Fellowship Hall.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Trustees, Wed, Feb 1, 7:15 pm, at Victoria Li's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Betty and Whit Bodman
Fellowship Host The 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.

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

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, UCC

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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
Lynne Lemley	Interim Office Administrator
Victor Cardenas	Custodian

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

an Open and Affirming Church
of The United Church of Christ

February 19, 2017

The Seventh Sunday After Epiphany



GATHERING

In a word, what I'm saying is *Grow up*. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

Matthew 5: 48, Eugene Peterson, *The Message*

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio "Largo" from *Sonata # 5*

Handel

*GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
generously and graciously,
big-hearted and open-hearted,
with kindness, mercy and benevolence,
this is how God lives toward us,
relates to us, supports us.

*This is God's way,
Christ's way,
the church's way,
so let us live toward one another,
and all people,
with generosity and grace,
with hearts that are big and open,
with kindness, mercy and benevolence.*

***SINGING A HYMN** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Red Hymnal 366