

## GATHERING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Trio “Sarabande” from *Sonata, Op. 4, No. 9*

Vitali

### ADHAN—CALL TO PRAYER

**\*SINGING A HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Red Hymnal 8

### CONFESSING OUR SIN

Invocations from the *Hirz al-Jawshan*

O You who accepts acts of penitence.

You who exceeds in benevolence.

*You who hearken unto those who call.*

*You who knows all that is hidden.*

You before whose greatness everything is humbled.

You before whom everything bows in awe.

*You by whose command the heavens and earth abide.*

*You in whose fear all things obey.*

You, the goal of all hopes, the refuge of every outcast.

Master of the covenant and the promise.

*You who grants our requests.*

*You who discovers the distress of every weary soul.*

You who conceals every blemish.

You the companion of every lonely soul.

*You who befriends me in my solitariness.*

*You who companions me in my loneliness.*

You who are faithful in covenant.

You who bestows our desires.

*Oh Lord of majesty and power.*

*My help in poverty, my refuge in distress.*

*My restorer in faint heartedness, my healer in distraction.*

*O You who make an end of evil deeds.*

*O You in whom every complaint comes to an end.*

*Praise be to You, there is no God but You.*

## SEEKING MERCY

### CONTEMPLATING OUR LIVES IN SILENCE

**SEEKING MERCY** *Song of Mercy*

Insert

## REFLECTING AND PRAYING

### REFLECTING

Imam Asim Shareef

### SHARING WITH ONE ANOTHER

### PRAYING WITH ONE ANOTHER

### PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED

(debts and debtors)

**RECEIVING OUR CHOIR’S GIFT** *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Baloche

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

### OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Chanson Triste*

Kalinnekow

### \*PRAISING GOD

tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.

### \*DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS TO GOD

## DEPARTING TO PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

**\*SINGING A HYMN** *Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts*

Black Hymnal 589

### \*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

### \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

**\*SENDING SONG** *This Is My Song*

Black Hymnal 591

**\*PARTING WITH A SONG** *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

## 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.

Tom invites you to join him after worship during **Lent** to reflect on **Anthony de Mello's "A Testament."** Copies are available in Fellowship Hall.

This Monday's **Texas Impact Weekly Witness**, held at noon in Murchison Chapel at First United Methodist Church, will focus on the death penalty.

On **Sunday, April 2, at 9:30 am**, the Deacons will host a **Time of Welcome and Orientation** to folks who are new to our church. This is an opportunity to meet new folks, learn more about the Congregational Church of Austin, and ask any questions you may have.

The **Hill Country Ride for AIDS** is coming up again at the end of April, and our intrepid cyclists on the Care Communities Team are busy training and raising money for the organizations that provide supportive services to people in our community living with AIDS. **If you would like to financially support George Hetrick, Robin Chapman or Tom VandeStadt**, please go to [hillcountryride.org](http://hillcountryride.org) and click the Donate to a Participant link and follow the instructions. Thank you!

**Interfaith Environmental Network and Austin Presbyterian Seminary** are hosting the **Water Is Life** Preach-Off today, 4 to 7pm, at Servant Church (1605 E 38<sup>th</sup>).

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Council, Tue, March 28, 7:15 pm at the Bodman's  
Visioning Committee, Wed, March 29, 7:15 pm, at church

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Ruth Koenig and Jo Jensen  
Fellowship Host Deacons

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The **Adult Christian Education Group** meets Sundays at 10:00 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 "Time With Children."

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
Jonathan Geer	Piano
Amy Harris	Violin
Robbin Rosson	Cello
Amy Rivera	Sunday School Teacher
Rev. Van Herd	Adult Christian Education
Rev. Amelia Fulbright	Labyrinth Student Ministry
Lynne Lemley	Interim Office Manager
Victor Cardenas	Custodian

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

an Open and Affirming Church  
of The United Church of Christ

**March 26, 2017**

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent**



## CONTEMPLATING OUR LIVES IN RELATION TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

We have sent to you (Muhammad) the Scripture with the truth, confirming the Scriptures that came before it, and preserving the truth in them: so judge between people according to what God has sent down. Do not follow the whims that deviate from the truth that has come to you. We have assigned a law and a path to each of you. If God had so willed, He would have made you one community, but he wanted to test you through that which He has given you, so race to do good: you will all return to God and He will make clear to you the matters about which you have differed.

Surah of the Table, 5: 48

You will surely find that the nearest in affection to those who believe are the ones who say, "we are Christians."

Surah of the Table, 5: 82

And to God is the East and the West: and wherever you turn, there is the face of God. Behold, God is infinite and all-knowing.

Surah of the Cow 2: 15