

GATHERING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Trio *Regrets*

Gretchaninow

*GATHERING AT THE TABLE OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the wild place,
Jesus suffered
hunger, thirst and temptation.

And angels ministered to him.

In the world,
people suffered
hunger, thirst and temptation.

And Jesus ministered to them.

Today Jesus will minister to us,
offering us his bread, sharing with us his cup.

*So that we may minister to others who suffer,
offering them who we, sharing with them what we have.*

*SINGING A HYMN *O God, How We Have Wandered* Black Hymnal 202

READING, REFLECTING, AND PRAYING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Matthew 4: 1-11

REFLECTING

SITTING SILENTLY

SHARING WITH ONE ANOTHER

PRAYING WITH ONE ANOTHER

PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED

Insert

SHARING CHRIST'S MEAL

REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS

BLESSING THE MEAL

SINGING BEFORE WE SHARE THE MEAL

Come, You Hungry Ones

Insert

SHARING THE MEAL AND PRAYING AT THE PRAYER NET

All who love Jesus Christ are invited to share in this meal. Please come forward, 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.

REFLECTING WITH MUSIC DURING THE MEAL

Trio *Improvisation on Bread of the World, In Mercy Broken*

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 *Reverie*

Joseph Castle

*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 *O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free*

Black Hymnal 209

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *This Is My Song*

Black Hymnal 591

*PARTING WITH A SONG *Lift High the Cross*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following worship, **Ann Glenn** from the **Austin Sanctuary Network (ASN)** and **Jake Crowther** from **Grassroots Leadership** will give a presentation about the ASN—what it is, what it is doing, and how faith communities can get involved in supporting undocumented immigrants.

The **Texas Here to Stay** coalition **needs volunteers** for its upcoming immigration clinic on **March 11**. The clinic will offer free individual immigration and family law consultations as well as basic Know Your Rights information. Volunteers help with the intake process and logistical support, and childcare, among other tasks. If interested in this or future volunteer opportunities, sign up here: <https://goo.gl/forms/L8eDodi3waVx4n4f1>
The clinic will be at the Dobie Middle School, 1200 Rundberg Ln from 11am to 2pm.

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

We live in a time of heightened community engagement and political activism. If you would like to **contact your Texas legislator**, House or Senate, the address is: Name, P.O. Box 2910
1100 Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78701

The **Discipleship Group** will meet this **Wednesday**, March 8, 7:30 pm, at church.

Tom invites you to join him after worship during **Lent** on March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9 to reflect on **Anthony de Mello's "A Testament."** Copies are available in Fellowship Hall.

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 and click the Donate to a Participant link and follow the instructions. Thank you!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons, Tues, March 7, at Joy Penticuff's
Coord Council, Tues, March 28, the Bodman's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Don and Sharon Brown
Fellowship 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 "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 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
Amy Rivera	Sunday School Teacher
Rev. Van Herd	Adult Christian Education
Rev. Amelia Fulbright	Labyrinth Student Ministry
Jonathan Geer	Piano
Amy Harris	Violin
Tony Rogers	Cello
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 5, 2017

The First Sunday in Lent



THE BAD NEWS AND THE GOOD NEWS

I know that these days you're close to breaking down. I know that you live always pushing back tears, always fighting away relentless anger, forever hoping this is a dream you'll wake from—and that these are the good days.

I know that for you the bad days are far worse. On the bad days you think that it's you. On the bad days you question your very sanity. On the bad days you believe you may be losing your mind.

This is what happens when the world gets turned upside down, when the natural equilibrium of the things you knew and counted and found comfort in, is so disturbed that there seems no solid place to stand anymore...

...And so in some ways the bad news, friend—is that it *isn't* you. Things are fairly jacked-up. You are right to be close to breaking down, right to be pushing back tears and fighting away anger. You are correct in hoping this is a bad dream and wanting so badly to wake up.

But the good news is that you *have* awakened. The good news is that you are in a place that has in many ways gone quite mad—and you are seeing it clearly. You are in your right, decent, rational mind—and that is why you are so damn angry right now. These are the appropriate responses of good people like you, to very bad days filled with very bad things.

So let your sadness and your frustration and your profound not-okayness, be a source of comfort right now. Let them be welcome reminders that you are not broken or unwell.

In fact, these disturbances in you are the reason you *are* being and will *keep* being, the sanity in this world. You are the compassion and the goodness and the love that we so need to heal this place.

Keep going, friend. You are not alone—and you're not losing your mind.

Be greatly encouraged.

John Pavlovitz