

GATHERING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Trio *Prelude*

Saint-Saens

GATHERING AT THE TABLE OF HOLY COMMUNION

In gathering together, as sisters and brothers in Christ,
let us today confess those parts of ourselves we don't often see,
or never see, because they're too disconcerting or painful,
or they contradict an image we project,
or they betray our Christian discipleship.

*Sometimes we glimpse our unwanted parts,
exiled to the shadows and dark corners,
and we turn away, or deny what we see, or feel shame.*

Let us pray that we may we gain sight where we are blind,
that may we accept God's love and mercy for us, *as we really* are,
and that we may be loving and merciful to ourselves and to one another,
as we *really* are.

*SINGING A HYMN *Many Are the Lightbeams*

Black Hymnal 163

READING, REFLECTING, AND PRAYING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

John 9: 1-12

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 THE MEAL *Here, O My Lord*

Red Hymnal 287

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 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

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 "Adagio" from *Trio in D Minor*

Arensky

*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 *Here, O My Lord*

Red Hymnal 287

*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 public education.

Next Sunday, we observe **Palm/Passion Sunday**, and on Friday, April 14, we will host our **Good Friday Service** at 7:00 pm.

The **San Gabriel Chorale and the Southwestern University Chorale** are joining together to present "**Samson**" by **Handel**. The performance is at **7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 8th** in the Alma Thomas Theater, Sarofim School of Fine Arts building, Southwestern University in Georgetown. **Nodie Murphy** has been practicing very diligently with this wonderful collection of singers while studying the choral directing techniques of a master, Kenneth Sheppard. It will cost money, though. Contact Nodie for more details.

The **Hill Country Ride for AIDS** is coming up 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, April 4, 7:15 pm, at Joy Penticuff's
Trustees, Wed, April 5, 7:15 pm at Victoria Li's
Coord Council, Tue, April 25, at the Bodman's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Debby Kohrt and Kristen Parkhill
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

April 2, 2017

The Fifth Sunday in Lent



IF WE TRULY HAVEN'T NOTICED, LET'S WAKE UP AND NOTICE

My friends, let's grow up.

Let's stop pretending we don't know the deal here.

Or if we truly haven't noticed, let's wake up and notice.

Look: everything that can be lost will be lost.

It's simple—how could we have missed it for so long?

Let's grieve our losses fully, like ripe human beings,
but please, let's not be so shocked by them.

Let's not act so betrayed.

As though life had broken her secret promise to us.

Impermanence is life's only promise to us.

And she keeps it with ruthless impeccability.

Jennifer Wellwood

This past, the Negro's past,...this endless struggle to achieve and reveal and confirm a human identity,...yet contains, for all its horror, something very beautiful. I do not mean to be sentimental about suffering...but people who cannot suffer can never grow up, can never discover who they really are. ...It demands great spiritual resilience not to hate the hater whose foot is on your neck, and an even greater miracle of perception and charity not to teach your children to hate...I am proud of these people not because of their color but because of their intelligence and their spiritual force and beauty. This country should be proud of them, too, but, alas, not many people in this country even know of their existence. And the reason for this ignorance is that a knowledge of the role these people played—and play—in American life would reveal more about America to Americans than Americans wish to know.

James Baldwin