

CELEBRATING CHRIST'S RESURRECTION WITH SONG AND FLOWERS

*PLACING FLOWERS ON THE CROSS

The flowers appear on earth, the time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom;
They give forth fragrance. Song of Solomon 2: 12-13

*SINGING AS WE CELEBRATE

Now the Green Blade Rises Black Hymnal 238

PROCLAIMING THAT CHRIST'S RESURRECTION FREES US

God of life, in liberating Christ from the grip of death, you free us from our own fear of death. Fear of death no longer dictates how we shall live our lives.

God of love, we are now free to love all your people, to love the outcast and the persecuted, to love the hurting and the isolated, to love the despised and even our enemy. Fear of death no longer prevents us from loving unconditionally.

God of righteousness, we are now free to resist the powers of violence and oppression. We are free to seek the justice and peace you desire for all creation. Fear of death will no longer move us to conform to, remain silent in, or seek our private security from an unjust and suffering world.

God of the resurrection, you have freed us to fully live out our calling, even in the face of death. Whereas fear diminishes us, weakens us, and robs us of our ability to be just and loving people, freedom from fear lifts us, strengthens us, and enables us to be the people you call us to be. Fear of death will no longer dictate how we shall live our lives.

O death, where is thy victory? Death, where is thy sting?

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! And we, indeed, are free!

SHARING, PRAYING READING, REFLECTIONG

SHARING FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR LIVES

OPENING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED

(debts and debtors)

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Tell the News!*

David Ashley White

READING FROM THE BIBLE

John 20: 1-18

REFLECTING

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Allegro*

Fiocco

*PRAISING GOD

Lasst uns erfren

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 CELEBRATE NEW LIFE

*SINGING A HYMN *Because You Live, O Christ*

Black Hymnal 231

*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG "Hallelujah!" from *Messiah*

Handel

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord,

And of His Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever,

King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

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.

Mission Possible: Youth Group Journey to Washington, D.C. The Youth Group will be traveling to Washington, DC this summer to help social justice ministries serve the homeless, refugees and underserved youth. **Our newest fundraiser, Mission Possible, begins this Sunday and ends April 30.** It is an "envelope fundraiser" asking for donations toward the trip. Decorated envelopes will be posted on a posterboard with designated dollar denominations. Simply choose the amount you would like to donate, select your favorite envelope with that denomination, place cash or check inside and drop it in the collection plate provided. Thank you all for your support!

The **Spring Meeting of the Heart of Texas Association** (formerly Brazos Association) will be held **Sunday, April 23, 3:30pm at Faith Church UCC in New Braunfels.** Registration begins at 3:00pm.

The **Hill Country Ride for AIDS** is coming up in two weeks, 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 support the fundraising efforts of 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!

The **East Austin Community of Al-Islam has invited our church to join them for their Jum'ah Service** (Friday afternoon prayer service) on **Friday, May 5,** beginning at 1:15pm. The community meets at 3701 East Martin Luther King Blvd (Friends Meeting House).

Sunday, May 7, is Youth Sunday. We will not be worshipping in our sanctuary that Sunday, but joining University Christian Church and University Baptist church for worship at UBC.

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Don and Sharon Brown
Fellowship Hour Easter Brunch

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 Joys & Concerns.

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
Dr. Maimy Fong	Piano
Amy Harris	Violin
Robin Rosson	Cello
Amy Rivera	Sunday School Teacher
Morgan Acree	Nursery Attendant
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 16, 2017
Easter Sunday



GATHERING

So it comes.
Nothing else like it.
No image adequate.
No simile. No metaphor.
Unable to talk about it adequately
We celebrate this great, real mystery that
Neither language no imagination encompass.

Easter!

E. Preston Price

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF THE RISEN CHRIST

Trio *The Rejoicing*

Handel

REJOICING WITH SONG

Choir *Christ is Risen*

*PROCLAIMING OUR FAITH

Sisters and brothers in Christ, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

God who creates life, God who sustains life, God who renews life,
you transform that which has turned brown, and withered to dust,
into a fresh sprig of new life, vibrant green, stretching to the sun.

*You have transformed Jesus of Nazareth, dead on the cross, withering in the tomb,
into the resurrected Christ, risen child of the living God.*

We celebrate your power to create, to sustain, and to renew.

We shout with joy,

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Christ is risen, indeed!

***SINGING WITH JOY** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Red Hymnal 182