

***RECOGNIZING THE JOY FOR WHICH WE ALL LONG**

Comes the Messiah! *Shepherd and savior!*
Food to all who hunger! *Drink to all who thirst!*
Salve to all our wounds! *Answer to all our prayers!*

Our enemy is vanquished, the high and mighty are brought down,
their swords turned to plowshares, their crosses split to kindling!
Our Prince of Peace has come!

Our new day has dawned, our burden has been lifted, our crisis averted!
The Holy One is here, our lives are made whole!
Our mourning is over, our tears are now tears of joy!
Comes the Messiah! Shepherd and savior!

Oh, how joy erupts from our spiritual ancestors!
The promise of liberation and peace, long-deferred,
seems finally fulfilled. *Finally! My God, finally!*

They go crazy with delight, as would we, if we believed:
that our burdens were suddenly lifted,
that poverty and sickness, prejudice and war were behind us,
that our nation really was a place of freedom and equality for all,
that our climate crisis was averted.

Let us not deflate our ancestors' joy,
though we know it short-lived.
It is the joy for which we all long,
the joy of a new day,
the joy of all lives made whole,
the joy of creation at peace.

**PRAYING FOR OURSELVES,
ONE ANOTHER, AND THE WORLD**

SILENTLY REFLECTING UPON OUR LIVES

SHARING FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR LIVES

OPENING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED (debts and debtors)

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE John 18: 33-37
John 19: 12-15

REFLECTING Andrew Young

The real scandal of the gospel is this: humanity's salvation is revealed in the cross of the condemned criminal Jesus, and humanity's salvation is available *only* through our solidarity with the crucified people in our midst. Faith that emerged out of the scandal of the cross is not a faith of intellectuals or elites of any sort. This is the faith of abused and scandalized people—the losers and the down and out. James Cone

Cheap religion teaches us how to live successfully in a sick system. Richard Rohr

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio Improvisation on *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

***PRAISING GOD** *Old Hundreth*

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 MINISTER

***HYMN** *My Song Is Love Unknown* Red Hymnal 169

***OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

***TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD**

***SENDING SONG** *This Is Our Song* Black Hymnal 591

***PARTING WITH A SONG** *Ah, Holy Jesus*

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 foster care and domestic violence.

Our **Good Friday Service** will be held on Friday, April 14, at 7:00 pm. On **Easter Sunday**, we will once again transform our cross from a barren instrument of death into a beautiful flower-laden symbol of life. Also, we will have an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the younger children (so bring your Easter basket!).

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

Coord Council, Tue, April 25, at the Bodman's

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Mallory and Whitney Bayers
Fellowship Host Jaime Hadley, Deacons and Crew

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

408 West 23rd Street (512) 472-2370 office
Austin, TX 78705-5214 (512) 472-1175 fax
Congregational.faithweb.com ucausti@swbell.net
<http://congregationalchurchofaustin.org>
ucausti@swbell.net

Rev. Thomas J VandeStadt	Pastor
Nodie Murphy	Music Director
Jonathan Geer	Piano
Amy Harris	Violin
Robin 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

April 9, 2017

PALM AND PASSION SUNDAY



GATHERING

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Prelude for Palm Sunday

arr. Strietelmeier

ENTERING JERUSALEM

John 12: 12-19

RESPONDING WITH SONG

Choir *Ride On, King Jesus*

arr. Helvey

***REJOICING WITH THANKSGIVING**

Psalms 118: 20-27

This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

*I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.*

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

*We bless you from the house of the Lord.
The Lord is God, and has given us light.*

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

***SINGING OUT WITH JOY** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* Black Hymnal 213