

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS WITH JOY

Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you promise, by the grace of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to be Jesus Christ's disciple, to accept and to express Jesus Christ's love, wisdom, mercy, humility, and forgiveness in your daily life?

I do.

Do you promise to resist the powers at work in this world that oppress and exploit God's people and do harm to God's creation, and to work with passion and diligence to create a world that is just and peaceful.

I do.

Do you promise to continue growing, developing and maturing in your Christian faith, and to participate as fully as you are able in the life of this church by sharing regularly in our worship, participating in our life together, and reaching out to the world with us?

I do.

By your baptism, you were made one with us in the Body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith today.

Let us, the members of the Congregational Church of Austin, UCC, express our welcome and affirm our shared ministry in Christ.

We welcome you with joy into the life of this church, and we promise you our friendship and prayers. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's love.

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE WORLD

REFLECTING SILENTLY UPON OUR LIVES

SHARING FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR LIVES

OPENING OURSELVES IN PRAYER AND PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED

RECEIVING OUR CHOIR'S GIFT *Without Love...We Have Nothing*
Stevens/Martin

READING AND REFLECTING

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12
2 Corinthians 4: 7-12

REFLECTING

Our capacity to deal creatively with shattered dreams is ultimately determined by our faith in God. Genuine faith imbues us with the conviction that beyond time is a divine Spirit and beyond life is Life. However dismal and catastrophic may be the present circumstances, we know we are not alone, for God dwells with us in life's most confining and oppressive cells...The Christian faith makes it possible for us to nobly accept that which cannot be changed, to meet disappointment and sorrow with an inner poise, and to absorb the most intense pain without abandoning our sense of hope.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Yes the arc of the moral universe is long, and we may not see all the movement we wish to see while we are here, but make no mistake—it will bend far less severely and far more slowly if we simply wait for it to do so.

John Pavlovitz

OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio *Maestoso*

Bach

*PRAISING GOD

Tune: *Lasst uns erfruen*

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 PRACTICE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*SINGING A HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* Black Hymnal 391

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* Red Hymnal 272

*PARTING WITH A SONG *In Christ There Is No East or West*

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.

Rev. Dr. Whit Bodman will teach a class after worship today. He's calling the class, "**What is Scripture—Torah, Testament, Qur'an.**" Please join us if you're able.

The **Turkish American Muslim Community in Austin** has invited our church to an **Iftar dinner** on the evening of **Thursday, June 1**. We will gather with them at the Raindrop Center at 7:45 pm and share a meal they provide at 8:30 pm. **The Raindrop Center** is at 12400 Amherst Dr., right off MOPAC between Duval and Parmer.

Summer will be here before you know it, which means Nodie Murphy is soliciting **worship gifts** to replace the choir's Sunday anthem. Please consider sharing a gift with us--a poem (original or found), a song, an art work, a photo, a dance--something that has enriched your spiritual life. The offering should be five minutes or less in length; tell us and show us what it has meant to you.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Coord Counc, Tue, May 30, 7:15 pm at the Bodmans'

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers Jo Jensen and Betty Bodman
Fellowship Host 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 Choral Anthem.

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
Jonathan Geer	Piano
Amy Harris	Violin
Tony Rogers	Cello
Amy Rivera	Sunday School Teacher
Sam Clubb	Nursery Director
Lynne Lemley	Interim Office Manager
Victor Cardenas	Custodian

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

an Open and Affirming Church
of The United Church of Christ

May 21, 2017

The Sixth Sunday of Easter



GATHERING

Love lives in persons not ideas. Love is not a concept but a powerful, transforming energy that heals, reconciles, unites, and makes whole. Love draws together— heart to heart, center to center. Love is not what God does; love is what God is.

Ilia Delio

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCEPTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Trio *May Night*

Palmgren

*GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Sisters in Christ, brothers in Christ,
let's celebrate the good news: Christ lives!
Christ lives in persons, not in ideas, theologies,
beliefs or doctrines.
Christ lives in persons! In us! In you and me!

*Yes, Christ lives! In us! As love—
a powerful and transforming energy
that heals and reconciles,
unites and makes whole.*

Christ lives! And Christ is our foundation!
Christ lives! And Christ draws us together!
Christ lives!

Let's celebrate the good news!

SINGING A HYMN *The Church's One Foundation*

Red Hymnal 260