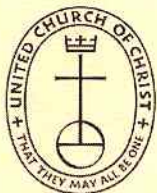


# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

an Open and Affirming Church  
of The United Church of Christ

**January 15, 2012**

**The Second Sunday of Epiphany**



## GATHERING

Is there any place I can go to avoid your Spirit, to be out of your sight?  
If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there!  
If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon,  
you'd find me in a minute—you're already there waiting!  
Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark!  
at night I'm immersed in the light!"  
It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you;  
night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.

Psalm 139: 7-12

## WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER AND SHARING OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS BRINGING IN THE LIGHT THAT ILLUMINATES OUR PATH

Trio: *Untitled*

Geer

### \*GATHERING IN GOD'S SPIRIT

Sisters in Christ, brothers in Christ,  
in this time, in this place, may we be present to God,  
as God is present to us, in all times and places,  
as God is present to us, in this very moment.

*God, our author and creator, in whose life we find our own,  
awaken us to your presence, that our hearts and minds,  
our spirits and souls, may respond to your breath of life.*

*From moment to moment, may the meeting of your spirit and our lives  
be a dance of love, a dance bringing healing and renewal  
to the earth in this time and place.*

\*SINGING A HYMN *God Our Author and Creator*

Black Hymnal 530

## **LISTENING FOR THE VOICE THAT BECKONS**

Katherine Hawker

A child once dreamed the Voice was calling his name...Samuel;  
Fisherman once heard the Voice when a young man bid them follow;  
And still the Voice beckons today...can you hear?

*Here I am. Send me.*

Moses protested vehemently as the Voice spoke at the burning bush;  
Mary stood amazed as the Voice proclaimed impending birth;  
And still the Voice beckons today...can you hear?

*Here I am. Send me.*

Rosa Parks followed the Voice to the front of the bus;  
Martin Luther King, Jr. heard the Voice as the bullet shattered;  
And still the voice beckons today...can you hear?

*Here I am. Send me.*

The Voice beckons from humble places...  
in the tears of hungry children,  
in the cries of the frail and frightened elderly,  
in the pleas of those whose dreams have been too long deferred;  
And still the Voice beckons today...can you hear?

*Here I am. Send me.*

A timid believer pauses to listen to the Voice;  
A struggling church hears the Voice and turns;  
And still the Voice beckons today...can you hear?

*Here I am. Send me.*

## **SHARING TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN AND AN OUTREACH MOMENT**

**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** *Lord, You Have Searched Me*

Hurd

## READING AND REFLECTING

### READING FROM THE BIBLE

Psalm 139: 1-12  
John 1: 43-51

### REFLECTING

Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

To love God is to effect right relation, justice, among human beings. To act with God, by God, and for God is to act with humanity, for humanity, by human choice. To love God is to love humanity so intimately that the realm of God is known to be here and now among lovers of humanity.

Carter Heyward

## OFFERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

### OFFERING OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN SERVICE TO GOD

Trio "Allegro co brio" from *Piano Trio #3*

Beethoven

#### \*PRAISING GOD

tune: *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

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 *Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way* Black Hymnal 465

#### \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

#### \*OFFERING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

\*SENDING SONG *May the Sending One Defend You* Black Hymnal 79

\*PARTING WITH A SONG *As With Gladness Men of Old*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Micah 6 Joint Worship Service** will be held this afternoon, 3:00 pm, at St. Austin Roman Catholic Church.

**Texas Impact** will give a presentation on the Austin Energy rate hike proposal at St Theresa's parish, 4311 Small Dr., Tues, January 17, 7:30 pm.

The 2012 **South Central Conference UCC Open and Affirming Convocation** will be held on Saturday, January 21, at Church of the Savior in Cedar Park. Contact the South Central Conference office at [office@sccucc.org](mailto:office@sccucc.org).

Our church's **Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 29, following worship.

On February 12 and 19, Tom will be hosting a **discussion of the book *Insurrection***, by Peter Rollins. If you'd like to participate, please pick up a copy of the book soon and begin reading.

**Zen and Politics** meets on Wednesdays, 5:30 pm, at University Baptist Church. See Tom for details.

To dedicate a flower arrangement in honor of or in memory of someone dear to you, please enter your name on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. You may bring your own flower arrangement or make a donation to the church flower fund and then speak with Christie Kuhner who will gladly help you provide a suitable flower arrangement. Please use one of the envelopes in the pews to make your altar flower donation to the church flower fund (suggested amount is \$25). On the outside of the envelope write your name, the date you have selected and the dedication names as you'd like them to appear in the bulletin.

## FREEZE NIGHT SHELTER MINISTERS

Sun Jan 15, Jaime Hadley, Univ. Christian Church  
Mon Jan 16, John Goff, Univ. Presbyterian Church  
Tue Jan 17, Dennis Murphy, Univ. Ave Church of Christ  
Wed Jan 18, Tom VandeStadt and Whit Bodman  
Thu Jan 19, Christie Kuhner, First English Lutheran Church  
Fri Jan 20, Jaime Hadley, All Saints Episcopal Church  
Sat Jan 21. Jen Howicz and Jo Jensen

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons, Wed, Feb 8, 7:30 pm, at church

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

Ushers	Don and Sharon Brown
Nursery Assistant	Marilyn Vache
Fellowship Host	Betty and Whit Bodman

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The **Adult Christian Education Group** meets Sundays at 10:00 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
Rev. John Towery	Pastor Emeritus
Nodie Murphy	Music Director
Jonathan Geer	Piano
Andy Strietelmeier	Violin
Colin Ferguson	Cello
Anna Kimberley	Nursery Attendant
Robynne Heymans	Sunday School Teacher
Kathy Whatley	Office Manager