

# Planned Parenthood's

## Clergy Advisory Group

invites you to an

### Interfaith Service of Renewal

Thursday, October 21, 2004  
7:00 p.m.

St. George's Episcopal Church  
4301 North IH-35  
Austin, Texas

This service is intended for women who have had or considered having an abortion, and also for partners, family members, friends, spiritual advisers, and others affected by abortion. The service will include readings, meditation, music, and personal testimonials.

Planned Parenthood's clergy advisory group affirms each woman's capacity as a moral decision-maker and her right to make a moral choice in matters of reproduction. The members of the group represent a variety of faith traditions and will be available for confidential consultation following the service.

This public event is open to all women and men, regardless of religious or spiritual orientation. For more information, contact 275-0171, ext. 104, or visit [www.ppaustin.org](http://www.ppaustin.org)



*Planned Parenthood's  
Clergy Advisory Group*



*Interfaith  
Service  
of Renewal*

Thursday, October 21, 2004

7:00 p.m.

St. George's Episcopal Church  
4301 North IH-35, Austin, Texas



# Welcome

*On behalf of the Clergy Advisory Group of Planned Parenthood, welcome to our interfaith service.*

*We hope that this service will be a time of renewal for you. Through words and music, through stories and silences, through smiles and tears, we hope that you find here a place of comfort, of compassion, of assurance, and most of all, of peace.*

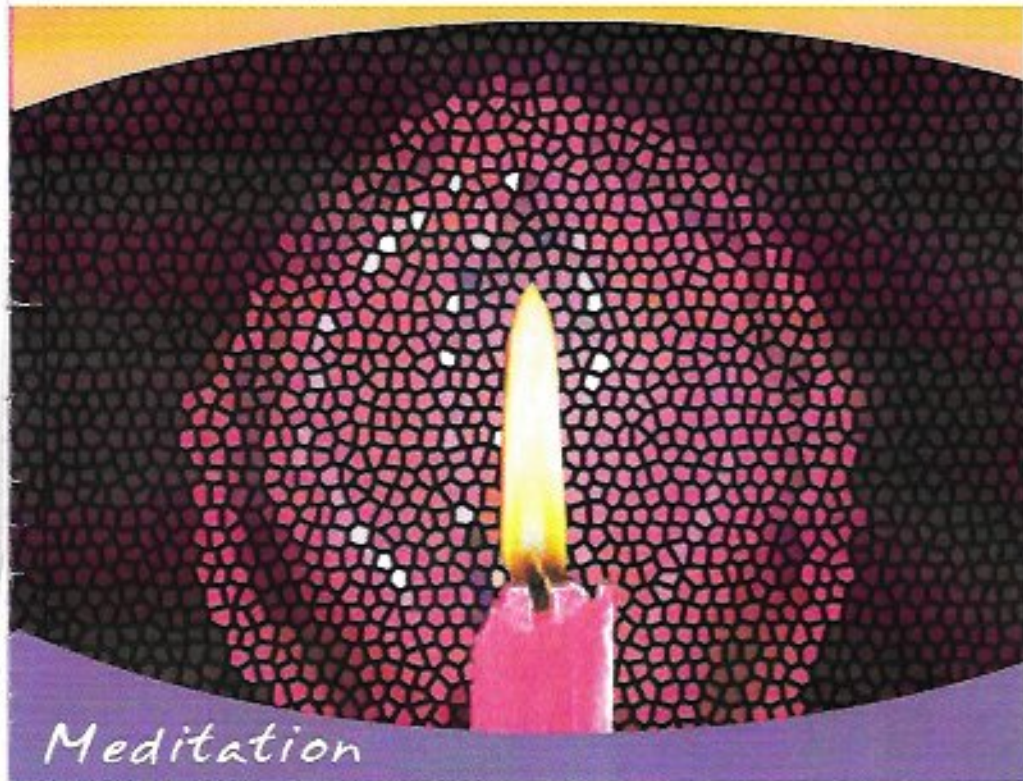
*This evening, you will hear the story of our speaker, Robbie Ausley. Perhaps you will find it useful to talk with someone about your story. After the service, we members of the clergy group, who represent a wide range of faith traditions, will be happy to meet with you in confidential conversations. Feel free to approach any of the service leaders after the service: we will be here for you.*

*Also, please be sure to read a copy of our Pastoral Letter, located on tables at the entrances to the sanctuary. In that letter is information about how to contact us after this evening's service.*

*Blessings to you,*

*Barbara Coymen*

*Chaplain, Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region*



## Meditation

Each one of us comes to this service at a different point in our own path,  
a different place along the journey of our lives.  
And each one of us comes to this place with different needs.

In coming together, may we in our common need gain strength from one another;  
lightening each other's burdens and praying for the welfare of the community.

In acceptance of ourselves as we are, we move beyond pain,  
and look towards a time of wholeness and of peace.

And that, in the end, is the true meaning of "healing."  
Not "curing," and not for each of us alone.

But "wholeness," a sense of integration, a sense of completion,  
a taste of peace and shalom.





## Order of Service

### Gathering Music

"As Longs the Deer for Cooling Streams" Hugh Wilson, arr. B. Wolfe

"Air" J.S. Bach

"Eagle's Sky"

"InFlow"

"RiverFlow"

Michael Morris

### Welcome

"Shalom Aleichem"

### Invocation

#### Litany of Rejoicing

**Leader:** We gather in the spirit of the Sacred, who loves us without limit, whose commitment to our well-being is never-ending.

**All:** *We gather in the name of the Sacred.*

*Known by many names,*

*I am who I am,*

*Forgiving Love,*

*Source of Light,*

*Unending Mystery,*

*Shelter for the Homeless,*

*Refuge for the Lonely,*

*Liberator of the Oppressed,*

*Lover of All Peoples.*

**Leader:** We gather with gratitude and awe for divine love that waits for us.

**All:** *We gather with gratitude and awe for divine love that holds and cradles us.*

**Leader:** We gather, remembering that we are created to embody the spirit of the Sacred in this world.

## Hymn: "God's Eye is On the Sparrow"

Why should I feel discourage,  
Why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely  
And long for heaven and home?  
When God is ever my portion,  
My constant friend will be,  
God's eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know God watches me (repeat).

### *Chorus:*

*I sing because I'm happy  
I sing because I'm free,  
God's eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know God watches me.*

"Let not your heart be troubled,"  
These tender words I hear,  
And resting on God's goodness,  
I lose my doubts and fear.  
Though by the path God leads me  
But one step I may see,  
God's eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know God watches me (repeat).

### *Chorus*

Whenever I am tempted,  
Whenever clouds arise,  
When song gives place to sighing,  
When hope within me dies.  
I then draw close to my shepherd,  
From care I am set free.  
God's eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know God watches me (repeat).

### *Chorus*



## Prayer Upon on Terminating a Pregnancy

Rabbi Donna Berman

*Mother of all life: I need You. I need Your comfort and love; I yearn to rest my head on Your tender breast. Rock me in Your arms as I reflect upon the meanings of life and loss. Awed by the creative powers within my body, I look back with sadness on the life that could not be. Like a wanderer in a desert I need help: give me shade, quench my thirst. I seek Your warm embrace, that I may drift into healing sleep and arise again, ready to re-enter the garden of Your world.*

## Anthem: "Mi Shebeirach"

Lisa Lipco Levine

*Cantor Jaime Shpall and the Makheilah*

Mi shebeirach avoteinu,  
Avraham Yitzchak v'Ya'akov.  
Mi shebeirach imoteinu,  
Sarah Rivkah Leah v'Racheil.

May the one who blessed our mothers,  
May the one who blessed our fathers,  
Hear our prayer (hear our prayer)  
Hear our prayer (hear our prayer)  
And bless us as well.

Bless us with the power of your healing,  
Bless us with the power of your hope,  
May our hearts be filled with understanding  
And strengthened by the power of your love.

Mi shebeirach avoteinu,  
Avraham Yitzchak v'Ya'akov.  
Mi shebeirach imoteinu,  
Sarah Rivkah Leah v'Racheil.

May the one who blessed our mothers,  
May the one who blessed our fathers,  
Hear our prayer (hear our prayer)  
Hear our prayer (hear our prayer)  
And bless us well.



Reading: "Elegy for Others"

Rev. Dorothy Boroush

Hymn: "Do You Hear?"

- 84 Unison



1. Do you hear, oh my friend, in the  
2. Through the roar, through the rush, through the  
3. From the place where you stand to the

place through out where through er most you stand, the crush, strand, through the do you do you

sky, through the land, do you hear, do you hear! In the hear in the hush of your soul, of your soul! I hear the hear, oh my friend, do you hear, do you hear? All the

heights, on the plain, in the vale, on the main, in the cry fear won't still, hear the heart's call to will, hear a dreams, all the dares, all the sighs, all the prayers—they are

sun, in the rain, do you hear, do you hear? sigh's star-ling trill in your soul, in your soul? yours, mine, and theirs—do you hear, do you hear?





**Reading: "Call Me By My True Name"** The Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh

**Reading: Lecture Excerpt**

Suzuki Shunryu Rosh

**Sharing Her Story : "Behind Every Choice Is a Story"**

*Robbie Ausley*

**Music interlude**

**Invitation to Ceremony**

**Ceremony of Candles and Stones**

**Reading: "Community" from *Dreaming the Dark***

Starhawk

**Hymn: "Pray For a World"** (sung to "Lift Up Ye Heads")


Ruth Duck

Pray for a world where ev'ry child  
Finds welcome in a sheltered place  
Where love is tender, undefiled,  
And firmness intertwines with grace.

Pray for a world where passion's fire  
Burns not in force or careless lust;  
Where God's good gift of deep desire  
Is safe in arms of faith and trust.

Pray for a nation that is fair  
And seeks the welfare of us all,  
Where leaders guide with prudent care  
To nurture life both great and small.

Pray for a world where all have voice  
And none will batter, rape, abuse;  
Till then, may all have rightful choice  
And pray for wisdom as they choose.



## A Litany of Challenge

Diann Neu

**Leader:** Let us go forth, to stand, sit, cry, pray, with women making reproductive choices, especially the difficult choice for abortion.

**All:** *Let us go forth*

**Leader:** To speak to legislators, family members and friends about our support for women's decisions.

**All:** *Let us go forth*

**Leader:** To challenge our synagogues, churches, and other holy congregations, to affirm women as moral agents.

**All:** *Let us go forth*

**Leader:** To encourage ministers, rabbis, priests, and counselors, to counsel women on free choice.

**All:** *Let us go forth*

**Leader:** To the city centers and country corners, to tell women that all of their choices, including their choice for abortion, are holy and healthy.

**All:** *Let us go forth*

**Leader:** In the name of all that is holy, let us go forth to work for justice.

## Benediction

May peace be with you.

May serenity dwell in your hearts.

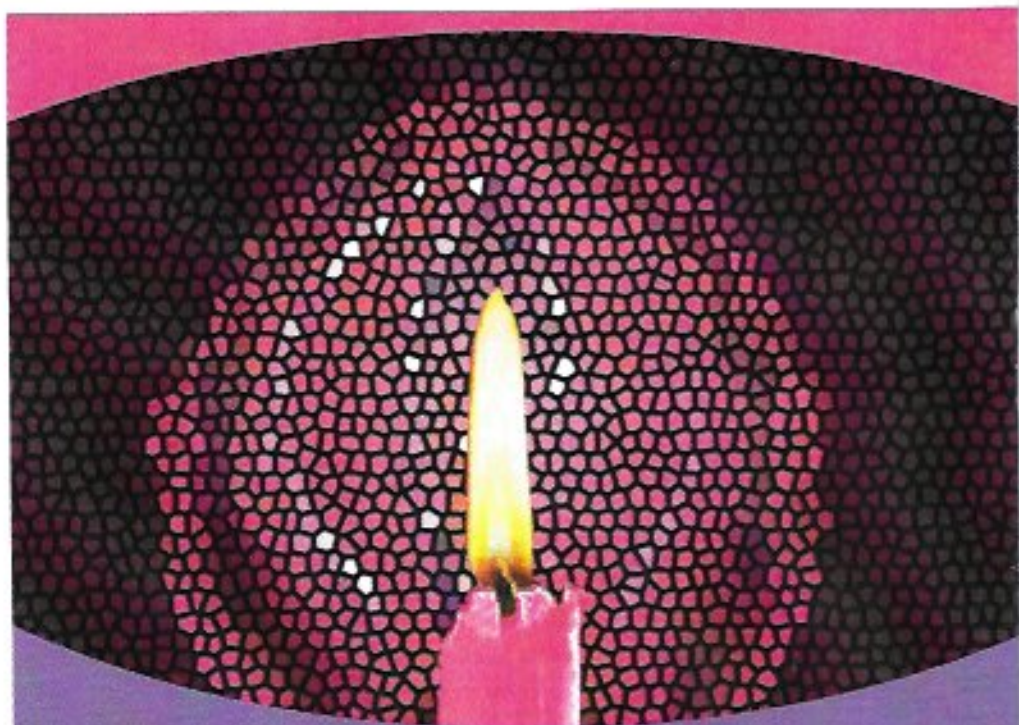
May love surround you.

And may the power of the Universe sustain your footsteps.

## Postlude: "Restoration"

Southern Harmony (1835)





## *Meditation*

Enable me, Spirit of Life, to use the days ahead  
Not in bitterness or in despair, but in love.  
May the words of my heart flow freely  
To the hearts of those beside me.  
Let no walls of silence be erected between us  
Lest we be alone when together.

We who have shared so much of life  
Still have the opportunity to create  
Even more precious memories.  
As we speak of life's eternal meaning  
Let us sense the tenderness  
In the clasp of our hands,  
And in the wordless message of the glimpse of our eyes.

Grant us the strength  
That comes with acceptance,  
The faith that enters with your presence.  
In the days ahead, help us to build treasures  
Of courage, wisdom and understanding,  
Not just for ourselves,  
But for those about us.

Let this be our goal for the days ahead.





## Musicians

Angelic Strings

Featuring Harpist Michael Morris

Bill Wolfe

Piano, Organ

The Makheilah

Choir of Congregation Beth Israel

Conductor Cantor Jaime Shpall

Piano, Charles Barnett

Oboe, Allison Welch

## Resources for Further Reading

Feldt, Gloria. *Behind Every Choice Is a Story*. University of North Texas Press, 2002.

Feldt, Gloria. *The War on Choice*. Bantam Books, 2004.

Maguire, Daniel C. *Sacred Choices: The Right to Contraception and Abortion in Ten World Religions*. Fortress Press, 2001.

Maguire, Daniel C., ed. *Sacred Rights: The Case for Contraception and Abortion in World Religions*. Oxford University Press, 2003.

Person, Hora E., ed. *The Mitzvah of Healing: An Anthology of Essays, Jewish Texts, Personal Stories, Meditations, and Rituals*. UAHC Press, 2003.

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice: [www.rcrc.org](http://www.rcrc.org).

Sanger, Alexander. *Beyond Choice: Reproductive Freedom in the 21st Century*. PublicAffairs, 2004.

Torre-Bueno, Ava. *Peace After Abortion*. Pimpernel Press, 1997.



## Clergy Advisory Group

Dr. Barbara Coeyman  
Chaplain, Planned Parenthood  
Community Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio

Rev. Kathleen Ellis  
Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church

Rev. David Hoster  
St. George's Episcopal Church

Rev. Bobbi Kaye Jones  
St. John's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seirin Barbara Kohn  
Austin Zen Center

Ms. Sharon Lastrapes  
Member, St. Theresa's Catholic Church

Rev. Jim Rigby  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jacqueline Saxon  
University Baptist Church

Cantor Jaime Shpall  
Congregation Beth Israel

Rev. Susan Sprague  
Trinity United Methodist Church

Ms. Susan Wills  
Austin Area Interreligious Ministries (AAIM)

Rev. William Young  
Metropolitan Community Church

Thank You

St. George's Episcopal Church:  
Rev. David Hoster and Staff

Robbie Ausley  
Member, First United Methodist Church

Bill Wolfe

Angelic Strings:  
Michael and Belinda Morris

Charles Barnett

Allison Welch



Planned Parenthood  
of the Texas Capital Region

Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region  
707 Rio Grande, Austin, TX 78701-2733  
[www.ppaustin.org](http://www.ppaustin.org)

For more information about the Clergy Advisory Group, please contact Barbara Coeyman, Planned Parenthood at 512-275-0171, ext. 104, [barbara.coeyman@ppfa.org](mailto:barbara.coeyman@ppfa.org)