

**December 1, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

First Sunday of Advent - *Hope*

United Christian Church of Austin

## **-- GATHERING --**

**INTROIT**

**“Advent Acclamation”**

UCC Chancel Choir

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

*(See pages 10-11 for printed announcements.)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP & CANDLE LIGHTING**

The Arnold Family

One: When we look around, we see shadows of hunger. So many neighbors, nearby and around the world, will go to bed hungry tonight...

One: When we look around, we see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer — and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight...

One: In the face of hunger,

**All: we light a candle of hope...**

One: In the face of injustice, in the face of despair,

**All: we light a candle of hope...**

One: May the light from this candle overwhelm the shadows of the world.

One: May the light from this candle say to all that God’s hope is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

**All: Let us not be afraid, God’s hope is at hand!**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”**

Chalice Hymnal #125

1 Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set your people free.  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Christ, in whom our rest shall be.

You, our strength and consolation,  
come salvation to impart;  
dear desire of many a nation,  
joy of many a longing heart.

2 Born your people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
born your gracious realm to bring.  
By your own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by your all-sufficient merit  
raise us to your glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744; Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1844; harmonies from *The English Hymnal*, 1906. ©1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Ellie Arnold, *Liturgist*

When we admit the places where we are broken and ask for repair, we join in the act of reconciliation, and hope for new life. Let us say together our prayer of confession.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Spark of All there is,  
we praise you for sending light into this world.  
We confess that we live as though  
the light had never defeated darkness.  
We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent  
to be among us and to live in us.  
We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season  
and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.  
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your spirit.**

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\* Asterisk signifies the people are invited to rise in body or Spirit.

**Bolded text** indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

Prepare us for Christ's return.  
Help us rejoice in the light  
so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*The people are invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another,  
such as a greeting, handshake, etc.*

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

# -- THE WORD --

## OUTREACH COLLECTION

"Come, Celebrate"

Come, cel-e-brate, come and pre-pare for the com-ing of hope; the  
hope of all cre-a-tion, for ev-'ry time and place.  
Born ma-ny years a-go, ma-ny miles a-way still  
cal-ling all to come a-long and cel-e-brate the day! So  
come, cel-e-brate, come and pre-pare for the com-ing of  
hope this day and ev-'ry day!

Words and Music: Tom Mitchell ©2013 All rights reserved

## TIME FOR CHILDREN

Emily Jamison Guerrero  
*Director of Children's Ministries*

## CHILDREN'S SENDING SONG

**"Come, O Jesus, Come"**  
*To the tune of "Peace, Salaam, Shalom"*

**Come, O Jesus, Come.**  
**Come, O Jesus, Come.**  
**Come, O Jesus, Come.**  
**Come, O Jesus, Come. (2x)**

## SCRIPTURE READING

**Luke 21:25-36**  
Ellie Arnold, *Liturgist*

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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\* Asterisk signifies the people are invited to rise in body or Spirit.

**Bolded text** indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

One: May we be granted wisdom and courage for interpretation.  
All: Amen.

## SERMON

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

Chalice Hymnal #119, vv. 1, 2, 4

**1 O come, O come Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**2 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's deep shadows put to flight. (Refrain)**

**4 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)**

Words: Latin Hymn, 12th Century; st. 1-2 tr. John Mason Neale (1851) and st. 3-4 tr. Henry Sloane Coffin (1916); Music: VENI EMMANUEL, French Melody, 15th Century, arr. Thomas Helmore (1854).

*@1995 Chalice Hymnal*

# — — PRAYER TIME — —

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

*As petitions conclude, each will end with:*

One: O Lord,

All: hear our prayer.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who is in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

# — — OFFERTORY — —

## INVITATION TO GIVING

## OFFERTORY

*We invite you to partner with us in mission and ministries.  
Offering plates will be passed around the Sanctuary at this time.*

*Alternatively, you may give online at [uccaustin.org/give](https://uccaustin.org/give)  
or scan the QR codes in the pew to be connected to giving websites.*

*It is through your generosity that this exceptional community  
of friendship, faith, and service is possible.*

## \*DOXOLOGY      “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

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\* Asterisk signifies the people are invited to rise in body or Spirit.

**Bolded text** indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, alt.; Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551  
© 1995 Chalice Hymnal

## — — COMMUNION — —

**INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE** Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

**TABLE BLESSING** Sue Lucas, *Deacon*

**CALL TO THE TABLE** Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

*All are now invited to come forward down the center aisle for communion.  
You may open your hands for a piece of bread from the common loaf.*

*The deacons hold split chalices that have both **RED** wine and **WHITE** grape juice  
in them. Please use what is right for you.*

*Alternatively, single-serve communion kits with gluten-free wafers and juice  
are available in the tray that I will be holding, if that works best for you.*

*Please return to your seats by the side aisles.*

*A deacon will come around to serve any who remain seated.*

*You may also use the time to light a candle of prayer.*

*Come now, for the table is ready.*

**COMMUNION MUSIC** “**The Little Drummer Boy/  
Peace on Earth**”  
*Chris McCubbin, Melissa Vasquez, Wyatt Allen, Nicholas Jimenez*

**— — WE GO OUT TO SERVE — —**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**“People, Look East”**

Chalice Hymnal #142, vv. 1-3

**1 People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.**

**People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.**

**Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flow'r may flourish.**

**People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

**3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,**

**shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.**

**People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Star, is on the way.**

Words: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1928, © 1957 Harold Ober Associates, Inc.;

Music: BESANÇON, Traditional French Carol, harm. Martin Shaw, 1928, used by permission of Oxford University Press.

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## **\*BENEDICTION/SENDING**

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

One: As our Sunday worship ends,  
ALL: Let our service begin!

## **POSTLUDE**

Nick Jimenez, *Accompanist*

## **Welcoming a New Member**

Chalice Hymnal #341

Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus the Christ,  
we gladly welcome you into this community of faith,  
enfolding you with our love  
and committing ourselves to your care.

In the power of God's Spirit  
let us mutually encourage each other to trust God  
and strengthen one another to serve others,  
that Christ's church may in all things stand faithful.

# -- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

## Sunday, December 1: First Sunday of Advent

- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service
- **11:15am:** Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Class
- **5:30pm:** Sunday Evening Small Group at the church building
- **5:30pm:** Youth Group

## Monday, December 2

- **6:30pm:** Choir Practice
- **7pm:** Caring Elders Team Meeting

## Tuesday, December 3

- **8am:** Breakfast Fellowship at Jim's on 183
- **1pm:** Tuesday Book Group (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)

## Wednesday, December 4

- **9:30am:** Wednesday Morning Small Group at the Hearn's home

## Thursday, December 5

- **6:30pm:** Handbell Practice

## Sunday, December 8: Second Sunday of Advent

- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service
- **5:30pm:** Youth Group

## Tuesday, December 10

- **8am:** Breakfast Fellowship at Jim's on 183
- **1pm:** Tuesday Book Group (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)
- **6:30pm:** Tuesday Evening Small Group at the Myricks' home

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# — — ANNOUNCEMENTS — —

## Thursday, December 12

- 6:30pm: Handbell Practice

## Friday, December 13

- 9:30am: Not Ready For Prime Time Book Club (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)