

December 8, 2024

10:00AM

Second Sunday of Advent - *Peace*

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**

Lynda Levis & Tarryl Hydell

One: Because of war, because of violence in our communities,
because there is still so much unrest in the world and our hearts,

All: we light a candle of peace...

One: Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have
not yet been remade into ploughshares,

All: we light a candle of peace...

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

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

All: Let us not be afraid; God's peace is at hand!

***OPENING HYMN**

“The God of Abraham Praise”
New Century Hymnal #24

1 The God of Abraham praise, all praises to God's name,
who was and is and is to be, fore'er the same!
The one eternal God, before what now appears;
the First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!

**2 God's spirit freely flows, high surging where it will;
God spoke of old in prophet's word; that word speaks still.
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep written on the human heart, in every land.**

**3 God has eternal life implanted in the soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
All praise the living God! Extol that hallowed name,
who was, and is, and ever shall be still the same!**

**4 The God of Sarah praise, all praises to God's name,
who was and is and is to be, fore'er the same!
The one eternal God, before what now appears;
the First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!**

Words: Moses Maimonides, 12th Century. Versification attrib. To Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400. Transl. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1884; alt. Music: LEONI, Traditional Yigdal melody, Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770.
© 1995 *The New Century Hymnal*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Walt Case, *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.**

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your spirit.
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-prepare for the com-ing of peace; the
peace 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-prepare for the com-ing of
peace 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

Philippians 1:3-11
Walt Case, *Liturgist*

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

All: Amen.

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SERMON

“Peace”

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“O God of Love, O God of Peace”

New Century Hymnal #571

**1 O God of love, O God of peace,
make wars throughout the world to cease;
The wrath of human wrong restrain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!**

**2 Remember, God, your works of old,
the wonders that our people told;
Heal every malice, harm, and pain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!**

**3 Whom shall we trust, O God, but you?
For you are constant, strong, and true.
None ever called on you in vain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!**

Words: Henry W. Baker (1861, alt.); Music: HESPERUS, Henry W. Baker (1854).
© 1995 *The New Century 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

“Away in a Manager/Still, Still, Still”

UCC Bell Choir

*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
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;
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

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-- COMMUNION --

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

TABLE BLESSING Carol Barrett, *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

Songs and Carols
Julie Stiles, *Bowed Psaltery*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

— — 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 8: Second Sunday of Advent

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

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

Thursday, December 12

- 6:30pm: Handbell Practice

Friday, December 13

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

Sunday, December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service
- 11:15am: Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Class
- 11:30am: Young-ish Adults Christmas Celebration
- 5:30pm: Sunday Evening Small Group
- 5:30pm: Youth Group - Christmas Party

Monday, December 16

- 6pm: Finance Committee Meeting
- 6:30pm: Executive Committee Meeting
- 7:10pm: Full Council Meeting

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— — ANNOUNCEMENTS — —

Tuesday, December 17

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

Wednesday, December 18

- 9:30am: Wednesday Morning Small Group
- 6:30pm: Wednesday Evening Book Club

Thursday, December 19

- 6:30pm: Handbell Practice

Friday, December 20

- 7pm: Longest Night Service