

December 29, 2024

10:00AM

United Christian Church of Austin

-- GATHERING --

PRELUDE

Julie Stiles, Accompanist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jenny Veninga

(See page 10 for printed announcements.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elsa Cole, Liturgist

One: With eyes wide open
and our ears attuned to the slightest sound,

All: we look for shepherds
and listen for the songs of angels.

One: In winter's light, guided by a star

All: we gather outside the door of a mystery,
wondering if we dare enter.

One: With folks and friends we love,
with strangers we have just met,

All: we gather, becoming the holy family
for this time and in this place.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Joy to the World!"

Chalice Hymnal #143

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

**2 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719. Music: ANTIOCH, attr. George Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1748.
© 1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Elsa Cole, *Liturgist*

Friends, let us prepare to enter the new year with hearts that have been unburdened; let us make our confession before God and one another:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of stars and angels, God of sheep and lambs,
God of abundance and grace:
You know us well, better than we know ourselves.
You hear us cry “Gloria!” and “Praise!”
And you watch us tear things apart with our words and deeds.
You hear us say “Thy will be done” and “Use me, O God”
And you watch us do nothing in response to cries for help.
You know us, and you love us, and you forgive.

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

Hear us now say, "Help us to change; turn us around,
Make us more loving and courageous and hopeful."
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Written by Beth Merrill Neel)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Dr. Jenny Veninga

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Jenny Veninga

*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 love; the
love 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
love 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

"Jesus Christ Is Born"

To the tune of "Peace, Salaam, Shalom"

**Jesus Christ is born,
Jesus Christ is born,
Jesus Christ is born,
Jesus Christ is born. (2x)**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:41-52

Elsa Cole, Liturgist

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

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And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

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

All: Amen.

SERMON “Times Are Different” Pastor Carl Schwartz-King

HYMN OF RESPONSE “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!”
Chalice Hymnal #150, vv. 1, 3

**1 Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,
mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

Words: Charles Wesley (1739, alt.). Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn (1840), arr. William H. Cummings (1856). Descant, Paul Liljestr nd   1976 Paragon Music Corp; all rights reserved; used by permission of Benson Music Group, Inc.
  1995 Chalice Hymnal

— — PRAYER TIME — —

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jenny Veninga

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

Rev. Dr. Jenny Veninga

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
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
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— — COMMUNION — —

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE Rev. Dr. Jenny Veninga

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Rev. Dr. Jenny Veninga

TABLE BLESSING Charlie Jamison, *Deacon*

CALL TO THE TABLE Rev. Dr. Jenny Veninga

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 “Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella”

Chris McCubbin

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** Rev. Dr. Jenny Veninga

— — WE GO OUT TO SERVE — —

***SENDING HYMN** “People, Look East”
Chalice Hymnal #142, vv. 1, 3, 4

**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.**

**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.**

**4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today:
Love, the Lord, 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. © 1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

***BENEDICTION/SENDING**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Veninga

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

POSTLUDE

Julie Stiles, *Accompanist*

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

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 29

- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service

Wednesday, January 1

New Year's Day

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 5

- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service
- 11:15am: Congregational Meeting on the 2025 budget

Monday, January 6

- 7pm: Caring Elders Team Meeting

Tuesday, January 7

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

Thursday, January 9

- 6:30pm: Handbell Practice

Friday, January 10

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

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