

January 5, 2025

10:00AM

Celebration of Epiphany

United Christian Church of Austin

-- GATHERING --

PRELUDE

Nick Jimenez, *Accompanist*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

(See page 10 for printed announcements.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Holly Hearn, *Liturgist*

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

All: For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

One: Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

All: Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

One: Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

All: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Arise Your Light Has Come”

The New Century Hymnal #164, vv. 1, 3, 4

1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God,
Which shines on you today.

**3 Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.**

**4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's pow'r will make us strong.**

Words: Ruth Duck, 1974, ©1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: FESTAL SONG, William Walter, 1894.
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CALL TO CONFESSION

Holly Hearn, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.
We love with condition.
We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes.
We do not turn to You as the source for our healing.
Forgive us, and empower us to be the imitators of Christ in love and
service.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

*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.**

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

-- THE WORD --

OUTREACH COLLECTION

“Jesus Loves Me!”

NCH #327

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! This I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." (Refrain)

3 Jesus loves me! Still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live. (Refrain)

Words: St. 1, Anna B. Warner, 1860; st. 2, 3, David R. McGuire, c. 1970. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1862. © 1995 *The New Century Hymnal*

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Emily Jamison Guerrero
Director of Children's Ministries

CHILDREN'S SENDING SONG

Shalom, Chaverim! Farewell, Good Friends

537

Israeli round

Sha - lom, cha - ve-rim! Sha - lom, cha - ve-rot! Sha - lom, sha - lom!
Fare - well, good friends, Fare - well, good friends, Sha - lom, sha - lom!

Le - hit - ra - ot, le - hit - ra - ot, Sha - lom, sha - lom.
Till we meet a - gain, till we meet a - gain, Sha - lom, sha - lom.

**May be sung as a canon.*

$\text{♩} = 100-108$

Words: Traditional Hebrew blessing; tr. Roger N. Deschner, 1982. Tr. © 1982, The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
Music: Israeli melody. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

Holly Hearn, *Liturgist*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet.

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

All: Amen.

SERMON **"Home by Another Way"** Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Who Would Think That What Was Needed”

The New Century Hymnal #153

- 1 Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.**
- 2 Shepherds watch and sages wonder, monarchs scorn and angels sing;
Such a place as none would reckon hosts a holy, helpless thing;
Stabled beasts and passing strangers watch a baby laid in hay;
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.**

**3 Centuries of skill and science span the past from which we move,
Yet experience questions whether with such progress we improve.
In our search for sense and meaning, lest our hopes and humor fray,
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.**

Words: John Bell and Graham Maule, 1990, alt. Music: SCARLET RIBBONS, English traditional melody. Arr. John Bell and others, 1990. © 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

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

OFFERTORY

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

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

*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

— — COMMUNION — —

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE	Janet Maykus, <i>Pastor</i>
WORDS OF INSTITUTION	Janet Maykus, <i>Pastor</i>
TABLE BLESSING	Diane Baker, <i>Deacon</i>
CALL TO THE TABLE	Janet Maykus, <i>Pastor</i>

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.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

— — WE GO OUT TO SERVE — —

***SENDING HYMN**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)”

NCH #160, vv. 1, 2, 4

**1 Hark, the herald angels sing,
Jesus, the light of the world;
Glory to the Christ-child bring,
Jesus, the light of the world.**

Refrain:

**We will follow the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**2 Joyful, all you saints arise,
Jesus, the light of the world;
Join the triumph of the skies,
Jesus, the light of the world. (Refrain)**

**4 Hail the Bearer of God's peace!
Jesus, the light of the world;**

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

**Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world. (Refrain)**

Words: Stanzas, Charles Wesley, 1739; refrain, George D. Elderkin, 1890. Music: George D. Elderkin, 1890; arr.
Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, 2000; arr. © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.
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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, January 5

- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service
- 11:15am: Congregational Meeting (2025 Budget)
- *No Adult Discussion Class
- **Post-Congregational Meeting:** Taking down Christmas decorations

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*)
- 6:30pm: Centering Prayer Group

Friday, January 10

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

Sunday, January 12

- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service
- 5:30pm: Youth Group Spring Semester Kick-off

Tuesday, January 14

- 8am: Breakfast Fellowship at Jim's on 183
- 1pm: Tuesday Book Group (*Zoom link in Friday newsletter*)
- 6:30pm: Centering Prayer Group

Saturday, January 18

- 10am-12pm: Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciling Workshop

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