

February 23, 2025

10:00AM

United Christian Church of Austin

-- GATHERING --

PRELUDE

Nick Jimenez, *Accompanist*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

(See pages 11-12 for printed announcements.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Walt Case, *Liturgist*

One: God, you who are love, you create us in love.

All: We are the body of your love.

One: Christ, love made flesh, you come to us in grace and healing.

All: We are your Beloved, blessed and embraced.

One: Holy Spirit, energy of love, your fire alone in us is our life.
We are bearers of your love to this world.

All: Fill us with your love, fill us to overflowing,
for the sake of the world you love. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“God the Omnipotent!”

Chalice Hymnal #679

**1 God the omnipotent! Boldly ordaining
thunder and lightning your strength to display,
bring forth compassion where violence is reigning:
give to us peace in our time, we pray.**

**2 God, the all-merciful! Earth has forsaken
all you make holy, and slighted your way;
bid not your wrath in its terrors awaken:
give to us peace in our time, we pray.**

**3 God the all-righteous one! Earth has defiled you,
yet to eternity stands what you say;
falsehood and wrong shall not tarry beside you:
give to us peace in our time, we pray.**

**4 God the all-provident! By your great chastening
earth shall see freedom and truth holding sway;
through the thick chaos your reign is still hastening:
you will give peace in your time, we pray.**

Words: Stanzas 1&2: Henry F. Chorley (1842, alt.). Stanzas 3&4: John Ellerton (1870, alt.).
Music: RUSSIAN HYMN, Alexis Lvov, 1833.
©1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Walt Case, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. We seek courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

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.

— — THE WORD — —

OUTREACH COLLECTION

“This Little Light of Mine”

1 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine...

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine...

4 When it's dark outside, I'm gonna let it shine...

5 Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...

6 Even when I'm sad, I'm gonna let it shine...

7 Jesus loves me so, I'm gonna let it shine...

Words and Music: African-American spiritual. Public Domain.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Emily Jamison Guerrero
Director of Children's Ministries

CHILDREN'S SENDING SONG

“Siyahamba/We Are Marching”

We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God. (repeat)
We are marching, we are marching, oh,
We are marching in the light of God. (repeat)

Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos',
Siyahamba ekukanyen' kwenkos'. (repeat)
Siyahamba, siyahamba, oh,
Siyahamba ekukanyen' kwenkos'. (repeat)

Words: Barber L. Waters, Music: Kenneth E. White. © 1982 Barber L. Waters and Kenneth E. White
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SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:17-26

Walt Case, *Liturgist*

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

"Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets."

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

All: Amen.

SERMON

"A Level Place"

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Blest Are They", vv. 1-4

Blest Are They

Leader or All

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . they are the

king - dom of God. Blest are they,
her - it the earth. Blest are they who
shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
chil - dren of God. Blest are they who

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
pure of heart; they shall see God.
suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.

Refrain
All

Re - jice and be glad!

Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!

Re - jice and be glad!

Yours is the king-dom of God!

Text and Music: David Haas, ©1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission.

— — PRAYER TIME — —

PASTORAL PRAYER

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

As petitions conclude, each will end with:

One: O God,

All: hear our prayer.

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father/Creator who is in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom/kin-dom 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.*

*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, *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.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

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— — WE GO OUT TO SERVE — —

*SENDING HYMN

“O God of Every Nation”

Chalice Hymnal #680

1 O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.

2 From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station that lures us from your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.

3 Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

Words: William W. Reid, Jr., 1958, alt. Music: NYLAND, Finnish folk melody; adaptation & harmony, David Evans,
1927. ©1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

*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.

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-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

Sunday, February 23

- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service
- 11:15am: Farewell Reception for Accompanist Nick Jimenez
- 11:15am: Worship Committee - Discussion for Lenten Decorating
- 4pm: Confirmation Class
- 5:30pm: Youth Group

Monday, February 24

- 6:30pm: UCC Chancel Choir Practice

Tuesday, February 25

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

Wednesday, February 26

- 6:30pm: Wednesday Evening Book Group (*Zoom link in Friday newsletter*)

Thursday, February 27

- 6:30pm: Handbell Choir

Friday, February 28

- 7pm: Friday Game Night

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

Sunday, March 2

- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service
- **11:15am:** Adult Discussion Class
- **11:15am:** Worship Committee - Lenten Decorating
- **2pm:** Youth Group & Confirmation Class - Crop Walk
- **5:30pm:** Sunday Evening Small Group at the church building

Monday, March 3

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

Tuesday, March 4

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

Wednesday, March 5

- **9:30-11am:** Wednesday Morning Small Group at the Bakers' home
- **6:30pm:** Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Thursday, March 6

- **6:30pm:** Handbell Choir

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