

March 9, 2025

10:00AM

First Sunday of Lent

United Christian Church of Austin

-- GATHERING --

PRELUDE

Mitch Stevens, *Guest Accompanist*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

(See pages 11-12 for printed announcements.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jenny Veninga, *Liturgist*

One: Lenten travelers, when you feel the security of God's love,
affirmation of God's call, and covered in God's grace...

All: God comes near.

One: When you feel deserted and alone, starving and parched for a
caring hand or an encouraging word, troubled and uncertain as
the ground under you shifts like sand...

All: God comes near.

One: When you feel emboldened to act, inspired to speak, energized to
live as bearers of the good news that the Kingdom of God is at
hand...

All: God comes near.

One: In all seasons of our lives, God comes near to us and does not
forsake us.

**All: We gather to come near to the Holy One whose ever-present love
remains near no matter where our journey takes us. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Chalice Hymnal #65, vv. 1, 3, 4

**1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;**

our present help, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
with craft and power great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth without an equal.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
the truth to triumph through us.
The powers of darkness grim,
we tremble not for them;
their rage we can endure,
for lo! their doom is sure;
one little word shall fell them.

4 God's word above all earthly powers
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Christ, who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
God's reign endures forever!

Words: Martin Luther, c. 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981, 1990;
© 1981, 1990 Ruth Duck.
Music: EIN' FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, c. 1529; harm. From *The New Hymnal for American Youth*, 1930.
© 1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jenny Veninga, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have elevated the things of this world above you. We have made idols of possessions and people and used your name for causes that are not consistent with you and your purposes. We have not always honored those who guided us in life. We have participated in systems that take life instead of give it. We have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships. We have yearned for, and sometimes taken, that which is not ours, and we have misrepresented others' intentions.

Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of your glory. Help us to learn to live together according to your ways through Jesus Christ.

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.

— THE WORD —

OUTREACH COLLECTION “Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands”

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands



Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all,
Take my hands, Lord Je - sus, let them work for you;
Work - ing for your kin - dom's all I want to do;

3



heal - ing pain and sick - ness, bles - sing chil - dren small,
make them strong and gen - tle, kind in all I do;
heav'n on earth we strive for, on ac - count of you.

6



wa - shing tired feet, and lift - ing those who fall;
let me watch you, Je - sus, till I'm gen - tle too,
follow - ing your ex - am - ple, may we hon - or you.

8



Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all.
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.
Let our hands be kind hands, lov - ing work to do.

Words: vv. 1-2, Margaret Cropper © 1979, Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (Admin Hope Publishing Company),
v3, J. Stiles © 2023

Music: Au Clair De Lune, Traditional French Melody

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Emily Jamison Guerrero
Director of Children's Ministries

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CHILDREN'S SENDING SONG

“May the Blessing of God”

Chalice Hymnal #448

May the blessing of God go before you.
May her grace and peace abound.
May her Spirit live within you.
May her love wrap you 'round.
May her blessing remain with you always.
May you walk on holy ground.

Words and Music, Miriam Therese Winter, 1987 © 1987 Medical Mission Sisters
© 1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13

Jenny Veninga, *Liturgist*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

All: Amen.

SERMON

“Hunger Pangs”

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

Chalice Hymnal #339

**1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bid'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**4 Just as I am, thy love unknown,
hast broken ev'ry barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

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-- PRAYER TIME --

PASTORAL PRAYER

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

As petitions conclude, each will end with:

One: O God,

All: hear our prayer.

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/kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

-- OFFERTORY --

INVITATION TO GIVING

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

OFFERTORY

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

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

— COMMUNION —

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE	Janet Maykus, <i>Pastor</i>
WORDS OF INSTITUTION	Janet Maykus, <i>Pastor</i>
TABLE BLESSING	Carol Barrett, <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.

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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**

“How Long, O God, How Long?”

Chalice Hymnal #642

**1 How long, O God, how long? The ancient cry is ours.
We wait in grief and ask how long before we feel your powers.**

**2 And why, O God, and why? We ask with every age
And throw against your distant sky the force of grief and rage.**

**3 The cross, O God, the cross! We think about your Son:
You know the weight and edge of loss, your tears and ours are one.**

**4. Your hand, O God, your hand! We need your hand to hold,
To walk this dark uncharted land where solid meanings fold.**

**5 We trust, O God, we trust in time our grief shall mend.
Transformed by love that shaped our dust, your love that knows no end.**

Words: Thomas H. Troeger, 1991, ©1991 Oxford University Press.

Music: TAFT STREET, Brent Stratten, 1993, ©1995 Chalice Press.

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***BENEDICTION/SENDING**

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

One: As our Sunday worship ends,

All: Let our service begin!

POSTLUDE

Mitch Stevens, *Guest 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, March 9

- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service
- 4pm: Confirmation Class
- 5:30pm: Youth Group

Tuesday, March 11

- 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

Wednesday, March 12

- 6:30pm: First Meeting of the Lenten Discussion Group
- 7pm: UCC Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, March 13

- 6:30pm: Handbell Choir

Friday, March 14

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

Sunday, March 16

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

Tuesday, March 18

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

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

Wednesday, March 19

- **6:30pm:** Lenten Discussion Group
- **7pm:** UCC Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, March 20

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

Saturday, March 22

- **8am-2pm:** UCC Property Work Day (food and music provided!)

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