

March 23, 2025

10:00 am

Third Sunday of Lent

United Christian Church of Austin

– GATHERING –

PRELUDE

Mitch Stevens, *Accompanist*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

(See pages 10-11 for printed announcements.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Carl Schwartz-King, *Liturgist*

One: O God, you are our God;

All: our souls thirst for you,
as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.

One: We have looked upon you in the sanctuary;

All: we have seen your power and glory.

One: Our lips will praise you as long as we live;

All: we lift up our hearts and call on your name.
Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN**

“We Worship You, God”

The New Century Hymnal #26, vv. 1, 4, 5

**1 We worship you, God; your power and your love
Are blazoned abroad, around and above:
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**

**4 Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

**5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

Words: Robert Grant, 1833 (alt). Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press. Music: LYONS;
attr. J. Michael Haydn (1737-1806). © 1995 *The New Century Hymnal*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Carl Schwartz-King, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: 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, our Lord. 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’ Hands Were Kind Hands”

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands



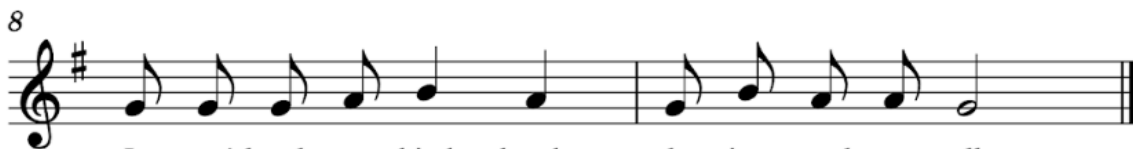
Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all,
Take my hands, Lord Je - sus, let them work for you;
Work - ing for your kin - dom's all I want to do;



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.



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.



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

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 13:1-9

Carl Schwartz-King, *Liturgist*

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

All: Amen.

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

SERMON **“The Fragility of Life, the Urgency of Repentance”**

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Come to Tend God’s Garden”

The New Century Hymnal #586

**1 Come to tend God’s garden, seeds of hope to sow,
Planting fields of justice, watching mercy grow!
In an arid wasteland, spread a verdant heath!
In a land of tumult, cultivate God’s peace!**

**2 As we tend God’s garden, from its furrows rise
Stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the skies!
Graciousness, our meadow, joyfulness, our root,
Unity, our foliage, righteousness, our fruit!**

**3 May God’s garden flourish, may our toil succeed,
May God bless our actions, every word and deed!
Serving Christ each season, with God’s diagram,
Charted by the Spirit, for the task at hand!**

Words: John A. Dalles, © 1992 John A. Dalles; Music: KING’S WESTON Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925.
© 1995 *The New Century Hymnal*

– 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

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 Clark Thompson, *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*

– WE GO OUT TO SERVE –

***SENDING HYMN**

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

The New Century Hymnal #222, vv. 1, 2, 5

**1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
my God should take frail flesh and die?
My God should take frail flesh and die?**

**2 God left the richest throne
salvation to bestow;
But Christ as flesh and bone
the world refused to know.
But, O my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need did life expend;
who at my need did life expend.**

**5 I sing my plain belief,
one song my heart out-pours:
Never was pain nor grief,
never was love like yours.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend;
I all my days could gladly spend.**

Words: Samuel Crossman (1664, alt.) Music: RHOSYMEDRE, John D. Edwards (c. 1840).
© 1995 *The New Century Hymnal*

***BENEDICTION/SENDING**

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

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

POSTLUDE

Mitch Stevens, *Pianist*

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, March 23

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

Monday, March 24

- **6:30pm:** UCC Chancel Choir Practice

Tuesday, March 25

- **8am:** Breakfast Fellowship
- **1pm:** Tuesday Book Group (*Zoom link in Friday newsletter*)
- **6:30pm:** Tuesday Evening Small Group at the Myricks' home
- **6:30pm:** Full Council Meeting in person at the church building
- **7pm:** Casey and Christie farewell dinner at Salt Lick, 3350 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock

Wednesday, March 26

- **9:30am:** Wednesday Morning Small Group at the Bakers' home
- **6:30pm:** Lenten Discussion Group
- **6:30pm:** Wednesday Evening Book Club (*Zoom link in Friday newsletter*)

Thursday, March 27

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

Friday, March 28

- **7-9pm:** Friday Game Night at the church building

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– ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)* –

Sunday, March 30

- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service
- 11:30am-1:30pm: Godly Play Workshop and Lunch
- After worship: Young-ish Adults Brown Bag at the Goudeaus' home
- 4pm: Confirmation Class
- 5:30pm: Youth Group
- 5:30pm: Sunday Evening Small Group at the church building

Monday, March 31

- 6:30pm: UCC Chancel Choir Practice

Tuesday, April 1

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

Wednesday, April 2

- 6:30pm: Lenten Discussion Group

Thursday, April 3

- 6:30pm: Handbell Choir