

April 6, 2025

10:00 am

Fifth Sunday of Lent

United Christian Church of Austin

– GATHERING –

PRELUDE

Julie Stiles, *Accompanist*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Henseler, *Pastor*

(See pages 11-12 for printed announcements.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Aubry Riordan, *Liturgist*

One: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word,
O God.

All: **Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!**

One: Come and let us worship with great joy!

All: **Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!**

One: God is about to do something new in our lives!

All: **Let God's will become strong in our lives. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

The New Century Hymnal #18

**1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.**

**2 Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.**

**3 When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on heaven's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.**

Words: William Williams, 1745. St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt. St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt. Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907. © 1995 The New Century Hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION

Aubry Riordan, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection, but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

(used with permission from Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Sarah Henseler, *Pastor*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Sarah Henseler, *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.

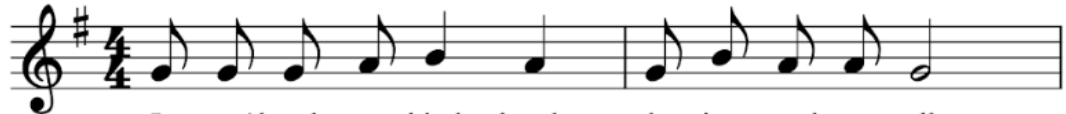
*Asterisk signifies the people are invited to rise in body or Spirit.

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

– THE WORD –

OUTREACH COLLECTION “Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands”

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands



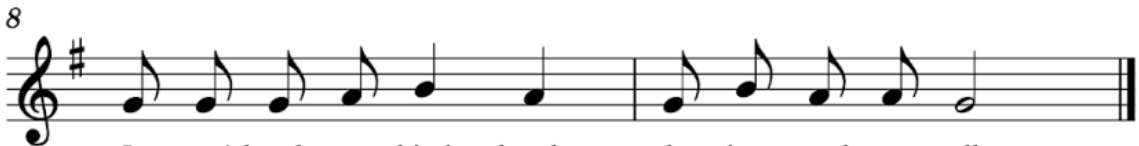
Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all,
Take my hands, Lord Je - sus, let them work for you;
Work-ing for your kin - dom's all I want to do;



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

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

Psalm 5; Matthew 5:43-48
Aubry Riordan, *Liturgist*

Take note of my words, Yahweh!
Understand my sighs!
Listen to my cry for help, my Ruler, my God —
for it is to you that I pray.
Yahweh, every morning you hear my voice,
every morning I put my requests before you, and I wait.

You're not a God who delights in treachery —
evil cannot live with you.
Arrogant people cannot stand in your presence;
you hate all who twist the truth;
you destroy those who lie,
and abhor the bloodthirsty and deceitful.

But I, because of your great love,
will enter your House.

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I will worship in your holy Temple
in awe and reverence.
Because of my enemies, guide me in your justice;
make straight your way before me.

For nothing they say can be trusted:
their hearts teem with treacheries,
their throats are open graves,
and their tongues speak nothing but deceit.
Pronounce sentence on them, O God!
Let them fall by their own devices!
Because they fall away from your word, banish them,
for they've been in open rebellion against you.

But let all who take refuge in you
Be glad and rejoice forever.
Protect them, so that those who love your Name
will rejoice in you.
As for the just, Yahweh,
you surround them with the shield of your will.

Matthew 5:43-48:

You have heard it said, "Love your neighbor – but hate your enemy."
But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for your persecutors. This
will prove that you are children of God. For God makes the sun rise on
bad and good alike; God's rain falls on the just and the unjust. If you
love those who love you, what merit is there in that? Don't tax
collectors do as much? And if you greet only your sisters and brothers,
what is so praiseworthy about that? Don't Gentiles do as much?
Therefore be perfect, as Abba God in heaven is perfect.

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

All: Amen.

SERMON

“The Toughest Love”

Rev. Sarah Henseler, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

The New Century Hymnal #331

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as conquers death.

2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.

3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

Words: George Herbert, alt. © 1995 *The New Century Hymnal*;
Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1911, Public Domain.

– PRAYER TIME –

PASTORAL PRAYER

Carl Schwartz-King, *Pastor*

As petitions conclude, each will end with:

One: O God,

All: hear our prayer.

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Carl Schwartz-King, *Pastor*

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

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 webpages.

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 Carl Schwartz-King, *Pastor*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Carl Schwartz-King, *Pastor*

TABLE BLESSING Sarah Clary, *Deacon*

CALL TO THE TABLE Carl Schwartz-King, *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.

COMMUNION MUSIC “Said Judas To Mary” UCC Chancel Choir

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** Carl Schwartz-King, *Pastor*

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– WE GO OUT TO SERVE –

*SENDING HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Chalice Hymnal #56, vv. 1, 4, 5

1 For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

5 For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore one pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Words: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838,
arr. William Henry Monk, 1861. © 1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

*BENEDICTION/SENDING

Sarah Henseler, *Pastor*

One: As our Sunday worship ends,

All: Let our service begin!

POSTLUDE

Julie Stiles, *Accompanist*

Welcoming a New Member *(optional)*

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, April 6

- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service
- **11:15am:** Adult Discussion Class
- **After worship:** Social Justice Team Pride Month Meeting
- **After worship:** VBS Planning Meeting (*choose stories*)
- **4pm:** Confirmation Class
- **5:30pm:** Youth Group

Monday, April 7

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

Tuesday, April 8

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

Wednesday, April 9

- **6:30pm:** Final session of the Lenten Discussion Group

Thursday, April 10

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

Saturday, April 12

- **8am-2pm:** Property Workday

— ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)* —

Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday

- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service
- **4pm:** Confirmation Class
- **5:30pm:** Youth Group
- **5:30pm:** Parent Meeting for Youth Mission Trip
- **5:30pm:** Sunday Evening Small Group at the church building

Monday, April 14

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

Tuesday, April 15

- **8am:** Breakfast Fellowship
- **1pm:** Tuesday Book Group (*Zoom link in Friday newsletter*)
- **6pm:** Finance Committee Meeting
- **7pm:** Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 16

- **9:30am:** Wednesday Morning Small Group at the Bakers' home

Thursday, April 17

- **6pm:** Handbell Choir
- **7pm:** Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 18

- **7pm:** Good Friday Service

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