

May 11, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 am
United Christian Church of Austin

– GATHERING –

PRELUDE

Mitch Stevens, *Accompanist*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

(See pages 11-12 for printed announcements.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lynette Alcorn, *Liturgist*

One: Creator, O Mystery, Our Source, we praise you.

All: You have made one great Creation and we are part of it.

One: The harmony of all living things, woven together, is the hymn of your praise.

All: Our oneness is your will. Our belonging is our inheritance.

One: With stars and microbes, ocean currents and nerve fibers, we are one.

All: We dwell in the ecosystem of heaven. We are your microbiome, O God.

One: We who have thought ourselves separate, return.

All: We who have acted as if we are alone, rejoin you.

One: We worship you as the Body of Christ.

All: May our harmony with you, with one another and with all Creation be our praise and our worship. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God”

Chalice Hymnal #64

**1 We sing your mighty power, O God, that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at your command, and all the stars obey.**

**2 We sing your goodness, sovereign God, who filled the earth with food;
you formed the creatures with your word, and then pronounced them good.
Oh! how your wonders are displayed where'er we turn our eyes:
if we survey the ground we tread, or gaze upon the skies.**

**3 There's not a plant or flower below, but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from your throne.
While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,
and everywhere that we can be, you, God, are present there.**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1715, alt. Music: ELLACOMBE, *Gesangbuch der H.W.K. Hofkapelle*, 1784. © 1995, Chalice Hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION

Lynette Alcorn, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen:
You place us in your creation, and you command us to care for it.
Your works declare glory and splendor, and you call us to praise and
reverence. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty,
forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted,
have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the
creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace.
Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of
your spirit, and sustain us with the bread of life. In the name of
Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the new creation, we pray. Amen.**

Used with permission from The Rev. Ken Carter

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

“Halle, Halle, Halle”

All children are invited to come forward to take a blue basket to collect offerings.

Today, any cash collected will be donated to the Round Rock Pride Festival sponsorship/participation. Any food or other goods will go to the Bethany Food Pantry. Thank you.

[Refrain] Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

1 Glory to God on high! Halle, hallelujah!

Glory from far and wide! Halle, hallelujah!

Glory and peace on earth abide! Hallelujah, hallelujah! [Refrain]

2 Glory, Creator praise! Halle, hallelujah!

Glory and thanks we raise! Halle, hallelujah!

Glory and blessing all our days! Hallelujah, hallelujah! [Refrain]

3 Glory, O Christ you reign! Halle, hallelujah!

Glory, O Lamb, once slain! Halle, hallelujah!

Glory, O Lord, let loss be gain! Hallelujah, hallelujah! [Refrain]

4 Glory, Receive our plea! Halle, hallelujah!
Glory to Christ now be! Halle, hallelujah!
Glory, the world from sin set free! Hallelujah, hallelujah! [Refrain]

5 Glory, O Holy Lord! Halle, hallelujah!
Glory, O Christ Adored! Halle, hallelujah!
Glory, O Spirit, now outpoured! Hallelujah, hallelujah! [Refrain]

Text: Trad. Caribbean; verses by Gabe Huck, adapt. By Tony E. Alonso © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: Trad. Caribbean; arr. By John L. Bell © 1990 Iona Community, © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Emily Jamison Guerrero
Director of Children's Ministries

CHILDREN'S SENDING SONG

"Halle, Halle, Halle"
Refrain only

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Text: Trad. Caribbean; verses by Gabe Huck, adapt. By Tony E. Alonso © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: Trad. Caribbean; arr. By John L. Bell © 1990 Iona Community, © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1-31

Lynette Alcorn, *Liturgist*

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated

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Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of

every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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

All: Amen.

SERMON

“The Gift of Mother Earth”

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

Chalice Hymnal #693, vv. 1-3

**1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

2 We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster--
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1991. Music: TENDERNESS, Colin Gibson, 1992.
© 1992 Hope Publishing Company. © 1995, Chalice 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

Janet Maykus, *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

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 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 –

WORLDLY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

All: I affirm the earth as sacred in my life because I am dust and to the dust I will return. We are the living earth; she moans next to me and together, with me, she will be liberated.

I affirm water as sacred in my life, water that has been both a pleasure and a refreshment for tired bodies from generation to generation. We are fresh water; it gives us life as it runs through our

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veins and revives us for resurrection. I affirm life on Earth as sacred, life that bursts into the world stubbornly against death. We are resurrected life, the harmonious vitality of dignity that becomes “good living” (*Sumak Kawsay*).

I affirm plants and animals as sacred in my life because of the relationship that binds us. We are creation, trees and fungi, fish and wild beasts, birds and insects. We have flesh and roots that bear witness to creative and creating Wisdom.

I affirm wind as sacred in my life because it is subversively democratic. We are a holy breeze, a Spirit that blows everywhere to give breath to suffocated lives.

I affirm death as sacred in my life when it is worthy and comes when it must—at the right time. We are resurrection, death does not have the last word; we do not live to die, but we die to rise again.

Therefore: I affirm my faith in the God of earth, water, life, plants, and animals. I affirm my faith in God that it is wind ... breath of life and resurrection. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

TABLE BLESSING Charlie Jamison, *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**

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

Chalice Hymnal #693, vv. 1, 4

**1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**4 God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.**

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1991. Music: TENDERNESS, Colin Gibson, 1992.

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***BENEDICTION/SENDING**

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

One: As our Sunday worship ends,

All: Let our service begin!

POSTLUDE

Mitch Stevens, *Accompanist*

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Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

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.

– ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Sunday, May 11: Mothers' Day

- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service
- **5:30pm:** Sunday Evening Small Group meets with Pastoral Search Committee at the church building

Tuesday, May 13

- **8am:** Breakfast Fellowship at Jim's, Spicewood Springs & 183
- **1pm:** Tuesday Book Group meets online with Pastoral Search Committee (*Zoom link in Friday newsletter*)

Wednesday, May 14

- **11am:** Gayle Luke Memorial Service
- **6:30pm:** Chancel Choir Practice

– ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)* –

Sunday, May 18

- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service
- **After worship:** Adult Discussion Class with Pastoral Search Committee
- **After worship:** Intergenerational Service Activity – Organize Welcome Home Baskets

Tuesday, May 20

- **8am:** Breakfast Fellowship
- **1pm:** Tuesday Book Group (*Zoom link in Friday newsletter*)
- **6pm:** Finance Committee meeting
- **6:30pm:** Tuesday Evening Small Group at the Myricks' home
- **7pm:** Executive Committee meeting

Wednesday, May 21

- **9:30am:** Wednesday Morning Small Group at the Bakers' home
- **6:30pm:** Chancel Choir Practice

Friday, May 23

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

Saturday, May 24

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

United Christian Church of Austin website: UCCAustin.org

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