October 18, 2026 **10:00AM**

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost United Christian Church of Austin

–– GATHERING ––

PRELUDE Mitch Stevens, *Accompanist*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

(See pages 10-12 for printed announcements.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Walt Case, *Liturgist*

One: Each morning, God's grace awakens us; each evening, God's peace cradles us.

All: Compassion is our constant companion, as we go through work, school, the day.

One: In every moment, God is present with us; God whispers words which can change our lives.

All: Justice is our faithful teacher, pointing to where we can carry out fairness.

One: When we find ourselves groping in the shadows, God's light will provide a way home.

All: We turn the corner, and hope is waiting for us.

***OPENING HYMN** **"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"**

Red Chalice Hymnal #90

1 Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ we bring:
Alleluia! Amen!

Let all with heart and voice,
before his throne rejoice;
praise we with grateful choice:
Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high,
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky:
Alleluia! Amen!
Christ is our Guide and Friend
on whom we can depend;
his love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!

3 Praise yet our Christ again:
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain:
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
his goodness we'll adore,
singing for evermore:
Alleluia! Amen!

Words: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843, alt. Music: Traditional Spanish melody; harm. David Evans, 1927
© 1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Walt Case, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, keeper of all our ancestors, look at our brokenness.
We know that in all creation only the human family
has strayed from your Sacred Way. We know that we are divided,
and we are the ones who must come back together

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* *Asterisk signifies the people are invited to rise in body or Spirit.*
Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

to walk in the Sacred Way. O God, Sacred One,
teach us love, compassion, and honor,
that we may heal the earth and each other.

– from the Ojibway People of Canada

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

"Halle-, Halle-, Hallelujah"

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

Halle-, Halle-, Hallelujah,
Halle-, Halle-, Hallelujah,
Halle-, Halle-, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Caribbean Trad. Public Domain.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Emily Jamison Guerrero

CHILDREN'S SENDING SONG

"Sing Amen"

Sing "Amen, amen!
Go in peace, shalom!
May the love of Christ be in your heart today!"

Sing "Amen, amen!
Go in peace, shalom!
Be the light of God as you go on your way."

Text and Music by Emily Jamison Guerrero, all rights reserved, used by permission.

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 33:12-23, Matthew 22:15-22

Walt Case, *Liturgist*

<u>Exodus 33:12-23</u>

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.'

Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people."

He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

Moses said, "Please show me your glory!"

And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name 'The LORD,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live."

And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will

take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.

So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the Caesar, or not?"

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?"

They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are the Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

One: *M*ay we be granted wisdom and courage for interpretation.
All: Amen.

SERMON "The Nature of God" Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

Red Chalice Hymnal #709, vv. 1-2

1 Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken,
formed thee for a blest abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?

With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou mayest smile at all thy foes.

2 See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace which like our God, the Giver,
never fails from age to age.

Words: John Newton, 1779, alt. Music: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797
© 1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

–– PRAYER TIME ––

PASTORAL PRAYER

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

As petitions conclude, each will end with:

One: O Lord,
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. 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 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 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

"God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

Red Chalice Hymnal #439

1 God, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace;
O refresh us, O refresh us
traveling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.

May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound;
ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.

Words: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt. Music: *The European Magazine and Review*, 1792; harm. *The Methodist Hymn and Tune Book*, 1889, alt. © 1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

*BENEDICTION/SENDING

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

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

POSTLUDE

Mitch Stevens, *Accompanist*

Welcoming a New Member

Red 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 ––

Please support our Children and Youth Programs! We need:

- teachers and helpers in Sunday morning's Godly Play activities for our pre-schoolers, young elementary, and older elementary,
- nursery attendants during Sunday worship for children under two, and
- volunteers to assist our youth in upcoming fall activities.

You may sign up at the spreadsheet link in the Friday newsletter, or on the bulletin board outside the Children's Wing.

*Please speak with **Emily Jamison Guerrero, director of children's ministries**, or **Janet Maykus, pastor** and **interim director of youth ministries**, if you have any questions about our children and youth programs.*

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Sunday, October 18

Bring cans for Bethany Food Pantry Thanksgiving boxes!

- **9:30am:** Joyful Noise Rehearsal
- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service (YouTube Link in Friday's Newsletter)
- **After Worship:** Adult Discussion Class
- **5:30-7:30pm:** Youth Group: Trunk or Treat Prep

Tuesday, October 20

- **8am:** Breakfast Fellowship at Jim's (183 & Spicewood Springs)
- **1pm:** Tuesday Book Group (Zoom Link in Friday's Newsletter)
- **6pm:** Finance Committee Meeting
- **7pm:** Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 21

- **9:30-11am:** Wednesday Small Group meeting *only on Zoom* (Zoom Link in Friday's Newsletter)

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

Thursday, October 22

- **7pm:** Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 23

- **7pm:** Friday Game Night

Sunday, October 25

Bring cans for Bethany Food Pantry Thanksgiving boxes!

- **9:30am:** Joyful Noise Rehearsal
- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service (YouTube Link in Friday's Newsletter)
- **After Worship:** Caregiver Support Group
- **4:30-6:30pm:** Trunk or Treat for all!

Tuesday, October 27

- **8am:** Breakfast Fellowship at Jim's (183 & Spicewood Springs)
- **1pm:** Tuesday Book Group (Zoom Link in Friday's Newsletter)
- **6:30-8pm:** Tuesday Small Group meeting at the Laurences' home

Wednesday, October 28

- **6:30pm:** Wednesday Evening Book Group (Zoom Link in Friday's Newsletter)

Thursday, October 29

- **7pm:** Bell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, November 1

Bring cans for Bethany Food Pantry Thanksgiving boxes!

- **9:30am:** Joyful Noise Rehearsal
- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service (YouTube Link in Friday's Newsletter)
- **After Worship:** Adult Discussion Class
- **5:30-7:30pm:** Youth Group: Bake for Election Day Bake Sale (Youth fundraiser!)

United Christian Church of Austin website: UCCAustin.org
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Church Office/Administrator: (737) 230-1029
Janet Maykus, Pastor and **Interim Director of Youth Ministries:** (737) 230-1425
Emily Jamison Guerrero, Director of Children's Ministries: (737) 230-1029

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