

February 22, 2026

10:00AM

First Sunday of Lent

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**

Letty Tomlinson, *Liturgist*

One: Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

All: We follow, trusting in God's mercy.

One: We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

All: We recognize God's mercy at work in the face of temptation.

One: We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

All: We pay attention to God's merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.

One: We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

All: We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Red Chalice Hymnal #5

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of God's grace!

2 Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

3 My loving Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

4 Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt. Music: AZMON, Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839. © 1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Letty Tomlinson, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

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

“Welcome Song”

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

Chorus: Come in, come in, you are welcome here!

Come in, come in, you need not fear.

**Come in, come in, children of God,
You are welcome, you are welcome here!**

**1 Our doors are open to all,
To the young and the old, big and small.
We all are connected by God's loving care.
This is the love that we share! [Chorus]**

**2 We all are children of God.
We're a family of people who care.
One body, one spirit, one hope and one Lord:
these are the things that we share. [Chorus]**

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TIME FOR CHILDREN

Kyei Ko

Director of Children and Youth Ministries

CHILDREN'S SENDING SONG

“Siyahamba -

We Are Marching in the Light of God”

Red Chalice Hymnal #442

**Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos',
Siyahamba ekukanyen' kwenkos'. (repeat)
Siyahamba, siyahamba, oh,
Siyahamba ekukanyen' kwenkos'. (repeat)**

We are walking in the light of God.
We are walking in the light of God. (repeat)
We are walking, we are marching, ooh,
We are walking in the light of God. (repeat)

Caminando en la luz de Dios,
Caminando en la luz de Dios. (repeat)
Caminando, vamos caminando,
Caminando en la luz de Dios. (repeat)

Words: Barber L. Waters, Music: Kenneth E. White. © 1982 Barber L. Waters and Kenneth E. White
©1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11

Letty Tomlinson, *Liturgist*

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that

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it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

All: Amen.

SERMON

"That God-Sized Hole"

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

Red Chalice Hymnal #179

- 1 **Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.**

- 2 **Shall not we your sorrow share
and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?**

- 3 **Then if Satan on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness,
grant we may not faint or fail!**

- 4 **So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as served you faithfully.**

- 5 **Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
ever constant by your side;
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.**

Words: George H. Smyttan, 1856, alt.. Music: HEINLEIN, attributed to Martin Herbst, 1676
© 1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

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— 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 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 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	Sarah Clary, <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.

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*

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-- WE GO OUT TO SERVE --

***SENDING HYMN**

“Be Not Dismayed”

Black New Century Hymnal #460

**1 Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath God's wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.**

Refrain:

**God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
God will take care of you,
God will take care of you.**

**2 Through days of toil when heart grows frail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]**

**3 All you may need God will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]**

**4 No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon God's breast,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]**

Words: Civilla D. Martin, 1904, *alt.* Music: MARTN; W. Stillman Martin, 1905..

©1995 *The New Century 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 --

ATTENTION: We Have New Phone Lines!

We have eliminated our current line and replaced it with three new lines. Please use the below numbers to contact the Church and staff. The lines can receive texts; please make sure to include your name/information. Thanks!

Church Office/Administrator: (737) 230-1029

Pastor, Janet: (737) 230-1425

Youth & Children's Director, Kyei: (737) 230-1711

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We have a new P. O. box! Please send all correspondence to:

**United Christian Church
P. O. Box 80588
Austin, TX 78708**

Please support our Children's and Youth's Programs this spring! We need:

- teachers and helpers in Sunday morning's Godly Play activities for our children
- nursery attendants during Sunday worship for children under 2
- volunteers to assist our youth in their Sunday evening activities
- snacks provided for the Sunday evening Youth Group gatherings

Please sign up at the spreadsheet link in the Friday newsletter, or speak with Kyei Ko, director of children and youth ministries, if you have questions.

* * * * *

Sunday, February 22: First Sunday of Lent

- **9:30-9:50am:** Children & Youth Joyful Noise Music Program
- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service (YouTube link in Friday newsletter)
- **After Worship:** Community Discovery Group Presentation
- **After Worship:** Lunch Celebration for Walt Case's 85th birthday!
- **5-6:30pm:** Youth Group: Crop Walk Presentation by Diane Baker

Tuesday, February 24

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

Wednesday, February 25

- **12-1pm:** Lectio at Lunch (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)
- **6:30-7:30pm:** Evening Lectio (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)
- **6:30pm:** Wednesday Evening Book Club (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)

Thursday, February 26

- 7-8pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 27

- 7-9pm: Friday Game Night

Sunday, March 1: Second Sunday of Lent

- 9:30-9:50am: Children & Youth Joyful Noise Music Program
- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service (YouTube link in Friday newsletter)
- **After Worship: Adult Discussion Class**
- 2pm: Youth Group: CROP Hunger Walk (no evening meeting)

Tuesday, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

- 9:30-11am: Wednesday Small Group meeting at the church building
- 12-1pm: Lectio at Lunch (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)
- 6:30-7:30pm: Evening Lectio (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)

Thursday, March 5

- 7-8pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 8: Third Sunday of Lent

- 9:30-9:50am: Children & Youth Joyful Noise Music Program
- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service (YouTube link in Friday newsletter)
- **After Worship: Social Justice Meeting**
- 5-6:30pm: Youth Group: Movie Night

United Christian Church of Austin website: UCCAustin.org

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

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