

March 15, 2026

10:00AM

Fourth Sunday of Lent

United Christian Church of Austin

-- GATHERING --

PRELUDE

Julie Stiles, Accompanist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janet Maykus, Pastor

(See pages 10-12 for printed announcements.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Chris McCubbin, Liturgist

One: Come, let us gather in the presence of the God who is always faithful.

All: We come rejoicing, for God's love never fails.

One: When we look around and see the burdens of the world,

All: We remember that God is not absent.

One: In every season, in every circumstance, God's goodness surrounds us.

All: Because God is faithful, we can live with joy and hope.

One: Let us celebrate the steadfast love of the Lord!

All: With gladness and joy, we worship the God who is always faithful.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Hear the Voice of God, So Tender"

To the tune of: "As We Gather at Your Table"

Black New Century Hymnal #332

- 1** Hear the voice of God, so tender, gathering us in righteousness,
Giving, as our sure defender, steadfast love and faithfulness.
Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
Giving, as our sure defender, steadfast love and faithfulness.

**2 God is healing and forgiving creatures who are sore distressed,
Opening doors to hopeful living, as, by love we're daily blessed.
Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
Opening doors to hopeful living, as, by love, we're daily blessed.**

**3 Listening to the Spirit's guiding, breath beyond the written code,
We, in covenant abiding, seek to write our letters bold.
Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
We, in covenant abiding, seek to write our letters bold.**

Words: Lavon Bayler, 1987, rev. 1993 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844 Harmonization,
©1995 *The New Century Hymnal*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Chris McCubbin, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

I Cannot Do This Alone
by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**O God, early in the morning I cry to you.
Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on you;
I cannot do this alone.
In me there is darkness, but with you there is light;
I am lonely, but you do not leave me;
I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help;
I am restless, but with you there is peace.
In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience;
I do not understand your ways,
But you know the way for me....
Restore me to liberty, and enable me to live now
That I may answer before you and before humanity.
Lord whatever this day may bring,
Your name be praised.**

Amen.

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

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

“We Are the Church”

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

[Refrain:]

I am the Church! You are the Church!

We are the Church together!

**All who follow Jesus, all around the world,
yes, we're the Church together!**

**1 The Church is not a building, the Church is not a steeple.
The Church is not a resting-place, the Church is a people! [Refrain]**

**2 We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces:
all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places. [Refrain]**

**3 We praise our God with singing, with loving, with our living,
but to share God's love with everyone, that is the mission.**

**4 Sometimes the Church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning,
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding, always it's learning! [Refrain]**

TEXT and MUSIC: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh; © 1972 Hope Publishing Company

CHILDREN'S SENDING SONG

“Shalom Chaverim”

Shalom chaverim! Shalom chaverot!

Shalom, shalom!

Le-hit-ra-ot, le-hit-ra-ot,

Shalom, shalom!

Words: Traditional Hebrew blessing; tr. Roger N. Deschner, 1982. Tr. © 1982, The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: Israeli melody. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-41

Chris McCubbin, *Liturgist*

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he."

But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

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They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.

So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes

of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

All: Amen.

SERMON

"Whose Fault Is It?"

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Be Thou My Vision"

Red Chalice Hymnal #595, vv. 1-3

**1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Words: Irish song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt. Music: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963
©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 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	Carol Barrett, <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.*

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

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*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**

“Arise, Your Light Has Come”

Black New Century Hymnal #164, vv. 1, 3, 4

**1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit’s call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God,
Which shines on you today!**

**3 Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.**

**4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God’s pow’r will make us strong.**

Words: Ruth Duck, 1974, ©1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: FESTAL SONG, William Walter, 1894.
©1995 *The New Century Hymnal*

***BENEDICTION/SENDING**

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

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

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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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, March 15: Fourth 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
- **No Youth Group** (Spring Break)

Tuesday, March 17

- **8am:** Breakfast Fellowship at Jim's (183 & Spicewood Springs)
- **1pm:** Tuesday Book Group (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)
- **6:30pm:** Full Council Meeting in person at the church building

Wednesday, March 18

- **9:30-11am:** Wednesday Small Group meeting at the church building
- **12-1pm:** Lectio at Lunch (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)
- **2pm:** Community Discovery Focus Group (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)
- **6:30-7:30pm:** Evening Lectio (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)

Sunday, March 22: Fifth Sunday of Lent

- **9:30-9:50am:** Children & Youth Joyful Noise Music Program
- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service (YouTube link in Friday newsletter)
- **No Youth Group** (Spring Break)

Tuesday, March 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, March 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 Group (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)

Thursday, March 26

- **7pm:** Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 27

- **7pm:** Friday Game Night

Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday

- **9:30-9:50am:** Children & Youth Joyful Noise Music Program
- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service (YouTube link in Friday newsletter)
- **After Worship:** The Engagement Party
- **5-6:30pm:** Youth Group

United Christian Church of Austin website: UCCAustin.org

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

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

P. O. Box 80588, Austin, TX 78708

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