

March 8, 2026

10:00AM

Third 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**

Lynette Alcorn, *Liturgist*

One: Sing a new song!

All: **Make a joyful noise!**

One: Let the sea roar,

All: **And let the sky shimmer.**

One: Let the earth be glad,

All: **And let the children run and roll.**

One: Let the old laugh with deep wisdom.

All: **Let the young listen, wide-eyed and wondering.**

And let us worship God.

Used with permission: Beth Merrill Neel

***OPENING HYMN**

“Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped”

Black New Century Hymnal #22, vv. 1, 3, 4

1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!

Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!

Gladsome rejoice – organ and trumpet and voice –

joining God's great congregation.

3 Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes.

Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.

Only conceive what godly strength can achieve:
strength that would touch and caress us.

- 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.
God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:
amen, amen never ending.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680, Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993; MUSIC: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneurten Gesangbuch*, Stralsund, 1665, Adapt and harm, Wm. S. Bennet, 1863; © 1995 New Century Hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION

Lynette Alcorn, *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.

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

“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)

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

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:5-42

Lynette Alcorn, *Liturgist*

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."

The woman answered him, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"

Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."

But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."

So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.

And many more believed because of his word.

They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

All: Amen.

SERMON

"Living Water"

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Black New Century Hymnal #489, vv. 1-4

**1 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."**

**2 I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad,
And there I found a resting place, where Jesus made me glad!**

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, draw near, and drink, and live.”

4 I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I am redeemed.

Words: Horatius Bonar, 1846; alt. Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1847, arr Lowell Mason, 1850.

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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	George Langan, <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**

“O God of Every Nation”
Red Chalice Hymnal #680

- 1 O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.
- 2 From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station that lures us from your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.
- 3 Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

Words: William W. Reid, Jr., 1958, alt. Music: NYLAND, Finnish folk melody; adaptation and harmony, David Evans, 1927.
©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 --

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

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

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 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
- **5pm:** Community Discovery Focus Group at UCC
- **5-6:30pm:** Youth Group: Movie Night

Tuesday, March 10

- **8am:** Breakfast Fellowship at Jim's (183 & Spicewood Springs)
- **1pm:** Tuesday Book Group (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)
- **6:30-8pm:** Tuesday Small Group at the Laurences' home
- **7pm:** Community Discovery Focus Group at UCC

Wednesday, March 11

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

Thursday, March 12

- **7-8pm:** Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 13

- **9:30am:** Not Ready for Prime Time Book Group (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)

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

- **9:30am:** Wednesday Small Group meeting at the church building
- **12-1pm:** Lectio at Lunch (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)
- **2pm:** Community Discovery Focus Group on Zoom (link will be in next Friday's 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)

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

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