September 20, 2026 **10:00AM**

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 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** Walt Case, *Liturgist*

One: O give thanks to the Holy One! Tell of God's wonderful works.

All: Declare God's marvelous deeds among the peoples.

One: O give thanks to the Holy One! Give glory and rejoice!

All: Sing praises to our God! Let our hearts be glad!

One: O give thanks to the Holy One: Remember the miracles and the judgments.

All: The Holy One has remembered us. Praise God!

***OPENING HYMN** **"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"**

Red Chalice Hymnal #73, vv. 1, 3, 4

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.

3 For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

4 If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of the Lord.

Words: Frederick W. Faber, 1854 Music: Lizzie S. Tourjee, 1877; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988
© 1995 *Chalice Hymnal*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Walt Case, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, generous giver of life
and merciful forgiver of sin,
We admit that we sometimes forget the Hope of Christ.
Help us to remember the promises of that hope,
that you will always love us,
that you will not hold our sin against us,
that you will turn us around from what is evil,
Toward what is good.
Walk with us in this season, and help us
To look clearly at our lives and the world,
That we may embrace all with love.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

– Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'.
Used with permission.

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 ––

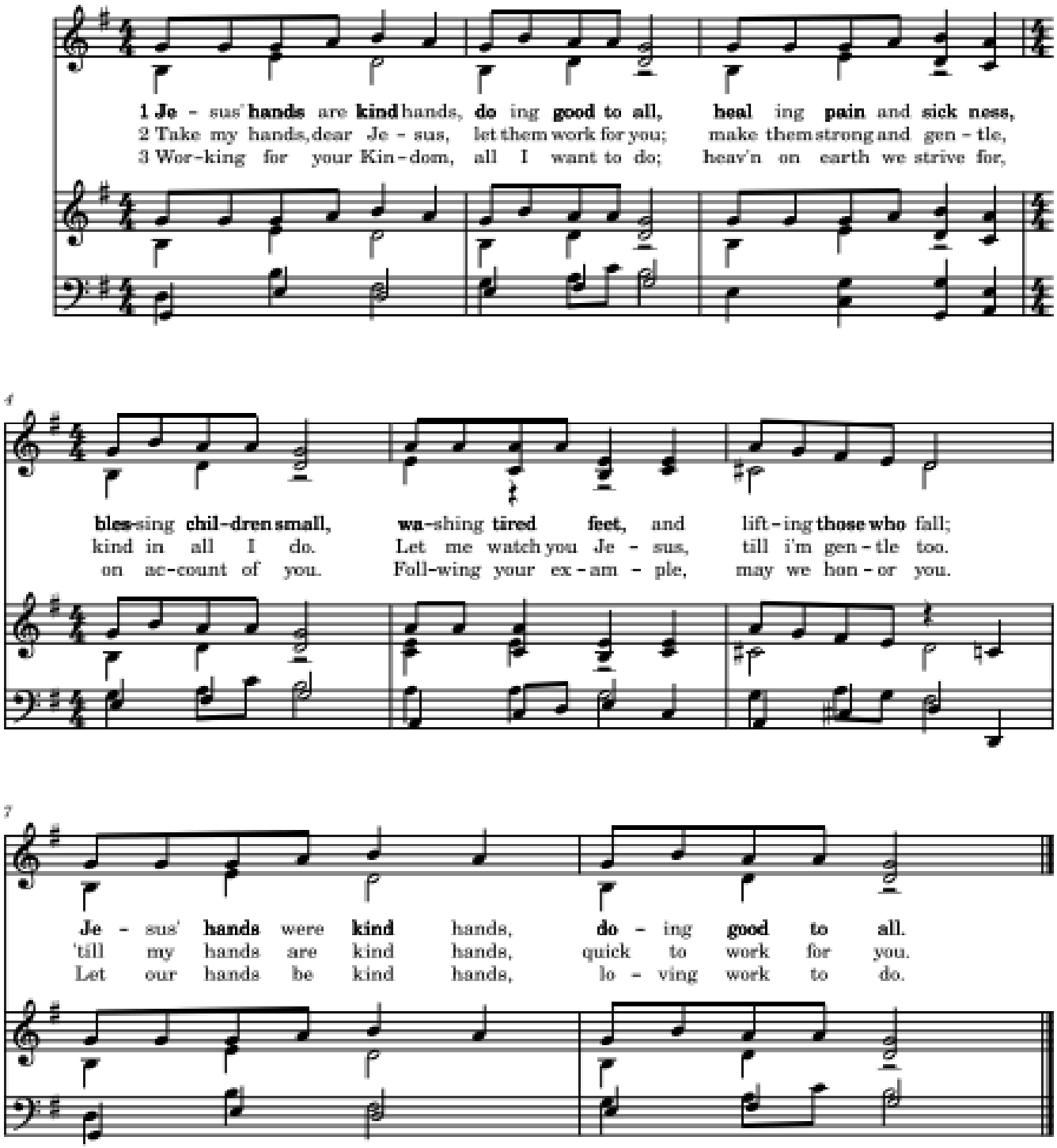
OUTREACH COLLECTION

"Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands"

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

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

Margaret Cropper (c. 1926),
J. Stiles (v. 3, 2023)

Claire de Lune, Traditional French Melody

Words: vv. 1-2, Margaret Cropper © 1979, Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (Admin Hope Publishing Company),
v. 3, J. Stiles © 2023; Music: Au Clair De La Lune, Traditional French Melody.

---

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Janet Maykus

CHILDREN'S SENDING SONG

"We Are the Church"

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 And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying;
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying: *Refrain*

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 17:16–31

Walt Case, *Liturgist*

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this pretentious babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.)

So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." (Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.)

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the

city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are his children.'

"Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

SERMON **"Treasures in Unexpected Places"** Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE **"In Christ There Is No East or West"**

Red Chalice Hymnal #687, vv. 1–3

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,

---

but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Christ shall true hearts ev′rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord,
close-binding humankind.

3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate′er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1991 Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1844; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
© 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*

---

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

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** **"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"**

Black New Century Hymnal #393, vv. 1–3

1 Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the sharing of a common life
is like to that above.

2 Before our God we come
and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share each other's woes,
Each other's burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
a sympathizing tear.

Words: John Fawcett, 1782; alt. Music: Johann G. Nageli Adpat. Lowell Mason, 1845
© 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 ––

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.*

* * * * * * *

Sunday, September 20

***Bring Period Party products!* – last Sunday to donate!**

- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service (YouTube Link in Friday's Newsletter)
- **After Worship:** Adult Discussion Class
- **5-5:30pm:** Training for Teens for UCC Childcare
- **5:30-7:30pm:** Youth Group: Bread baking for World Communion Sunday

Tuesday, September 22

- **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, September 23

- **9:30-11am:** Wednesday Small Group meeting *only on Zoom* (Zoom Link in Friday's Newsletter)
- **6:30pm:** Wednesday Evening Book Group

Thursday, September 24

- **7pm:** Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 25

- **7pm:** Friday Game Night

Sunday, September 27

- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service (YouTube Link in Friday's Newsletter)
- **After Worship:** Period Party (intergenerational event!)
- No evening Youth Group (come to the Period Party!)

Tuesday, September 29

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

Thursday, October 1

- **7pm:** Bell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 4: Founder's Day

- **10am:** Hybrid Worship Service (YouTube Link in Friday's Newsletter)
- **After Worship:** Adult Discussion Class
- **5:30-7:30pm:** Youth Group

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

P. O. Box 80588
Austin, TX 78708

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