

March 17, 2024

10:00 AM

5th Sunday of Lent

United Christian Church of Austin

-- GATHERING --

PRELUDE

Nick Jimenez, *Primary Accompanist*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(See pages 12-13 for printed announcements)

Pastor Janet Maykus
Interim Senior Minister

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jenny Veninga, *Liturgist*

One: The journey of Lent continues with a journey of sacrifice.

All: We are called upon to give our lives to God.

One: We are called upon to give of ourselves to others.

All: Gracious One, help us to reach inward in confession and outward in service.

One: Be with us this day and walk with us on this journey.

All: Be with us today and every day. Amen

OPENING HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
NCH #43 vv. 1, 2, 4

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, on earth be found,
fix in us a humble dwelling,
all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion;
pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in you inherit,
let us find your promised rest;
take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, your new creation;
pure and spotless may we prove;
let us see your great salvation
perfectly restored in you;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Author: Charles Wesley (1747) Tune: BEECHER John Zundel (1870) Public Domain

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

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jenny Veninga, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us approach God with confidence, trusting in God's grace as we humbly confess our sins.

All: Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor Janet Maykus

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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"

Margaret Cropper (c. 1926)

Claire de Lune, Traditional French Melody

$\text{♩} = 100$

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 100. The lyrics are written below the staves, with bolded text indicating parts for the congregation. The score is divided into three systems, with measure numbers 1, 4, and 7 indicated at the beginning of each system.

1 Je - sus' **hands** are kind hands, do ing good to all, heal ing pain and sick ness,
Take my hands, dear Je - sus, let them work for you; make them strong and gen - tle,
Wer - king for your Kin - dom, all I want to do; heav'n on earth we strive for,

4 bles - sing chil - dren small, wa - shing tired feet, and sa - ving those who fall;
kind in all I do. Let me watch you Je - sus, till i'm gen - tle too.
on ac - count of you. Foll - wing you're ex am - ple, may we hon - or you.

7 Je - sus' **hands** were kind hands, do - ing good to all.
'till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.
Let our hands be kind hands, lo - ving work to do.

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TIME FOR CHILDREN

Emily Jamison Guerrero
Director of Children's Ministries

All children are invited to come forward to take a blue basket to collect outreach offerings. You may donate money or items for our little free pantry.

After our Outreach Collection, children and the young-at-heart are invited to sit on the chancel steps or floor in front of the steps.

Following the prayer, children are invited to the Children's Wing for the remainder of worship, or may return to sit with their families.

CHILDREN'S SENDING SONG

"May the Blessing of God"

May the blessing of God go before you.
May her grace and peace abound.
May her Spirit live within you.
May her love wrap you 'round.
May her blessing remain with you always.
May you walk on holy ground.

Words and Music, Miriam Therese Winter, 1987 © 1987 Medical Mission Sisters
© 1995 Chalice Hymnal

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-17 (NRSVUE)
Jenny Veninga, Liturgist

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

One: This is the Word of God for all the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

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SERMON

"Wherever the Wind Blows"

Pastor Janet Maykus

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

NCH #292 vv. 1-3

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire,
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.

Words: Edwin Hatch, 1886, alt., Music: TRENTHAM, Robert Jackson, 1894. © 1995 *The New Century Hymnal*

-- PRAYER TIME --

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Janet Maykus

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.
Offertory 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.*

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***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God throughout these forty days;
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise;
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts.

WORDS: G. W. Dub Shepherd, 2006 OLD 100TH, MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551 LM. Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. Web site <http://www.umcworship.org>. Used by Permission.

-- HOLY COMMUNION --

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor Janet Maykus

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

TABLE BLESSING

Natasha Saelen, *Deacon*

CALL TO THE TABLE

Pastor Janet Maykus

*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.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor Janet Maykus

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-- WE GO OUT TO SERVE --

***SENDING HYMN**

“God, Beyond Our Ways of Knowing”

(tune: “Come, Thou Fount of Ev’ry Blessing” NCH #459)

God, beyond our ways of knowing,
you invite us into grace,
shepherd us to guide our growing,
help us seek and find our place:
teaching us through Christ to live
in the blessings that you give.
God, beyond our ways of knowing,
you invite us into grace.

You came not for condemnation
but with healing for the earth,
granting this death-bound creation
life revived through second-birth.
As the morning breaks the night,
so you fill the world with light.
Your love shines on every nation,
Bringing kin-dom to the earth.

God, beyond our ways of knowing,
you invite us into grace,
shepherd us to guide our growing,
help us seek and find our place:
teaching us through Christ to live
in the blessings that you give.
shepherd us to guide our growing,
help us seek and find our place.

Words: Adam M. L. Tice, 2009; © 2011, GIA Publications, Inc., arr. JBS Music: NETTLETON, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part
Second, Harrisburg, 1813; American melody, Public Domain

*BENEDICTION/SENDING

Pastor Janet Maykus

One: As our Sunday worship ends,

ALL: Let our service begin!

POSTLUDE

Nick Jimenez

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

TODAY, Sunday, March 17, 11:15am-12:15pm - Adult Discussion Class. Led by Rev. Janet in Room 6 (Youth Group room) following service.

TODAY, Sunday, March 17, 5:30-7:30pm - Sunday Small Group (*child care provided*).

Tuesday, March 19, 8am - Breakfast Fellowship. Contact: Kenneth Dalley.

Tuesday, March 19, 1-2pm - Tuesday Book Group on Zoom. All are welcome to join! For details see church website or contact Diane Baker.

Wednesday, March 20, 9:30-11am - Wednesday Small Group.

✚ LENTEN WEDNESDAY SERVICES ✚

❖ **Wednesdays from 6-7pm throughout Lent**, Rev. Janet will be leading a weekly discussion group every Wednesday evening. A simple supper of beans and cornbread will be provided. A vegan option will also be available. There will not be childcare, but children are always welcome. The last discussion will be on March 27.

❖ **Wednesdays at 7pm throughout Lent** - Julie Stiles will lead choir rehearsal at the church as we prepare for Holy Week.

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Friday, March 22, 7pm: Game Night at UCC. Feel free to bring your games, snacks to share, and invite any friends or neighbors who are interested. Please RSVP to Walt or Evelyn Case.

Sunday, March 24, 11:40am - 12:30pm - Bell and Chime Choir Rehearsal. Rehearsals continue every other Sunday. Contact Melissa Vasquez (melissabee85@gmail.com) or Walt Case for more information.

Tuesday, March 26, 6:30-8pm - Tuesday Small Group.

Wednesday, March 27, 6:30pm - Wednesday Evening Book Club. Contact Cherie Hinch for more information.

✚ PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE HOLY WEEK EVENTS ✚



❖ **Palm Sunday, March 24, 10am - Worship Service.**



❖ **Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7pm - Walk the Stations of the Cross** and participate in **foot- and hand-washing**. Snacks provided.



❖ **Good Friday, March 29, 7pm - Tenebrae Service.**



❖ **Easter Sunday, March 31, 10am - Worship Service**, followed by an **Easter Egg Hunt**. 