

November 19, 2023

10:00 AM

25th Sunday after Pentecost

United Christian Church of Austin

-- GATHERING --

PRELUDE

Nick Jimenez, *Primary Accompanist*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Janet Maykus

See pages 11-12 for printed announcements.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Walt Case, *Liturgist*

One: You, O Holy One, have been our dwelling place for generations.

All: **Before you made mountains or even the world, you were God.**

One: A thousand years in your sight is like yesterday when it is passed from your sight.

All: **The days of our years are seventy, or eighty if we are strong.**

One: They are soon gone and we fly away.

All: **Teach us to count the beauty of our days that we may gain wise hearts!**

- Based on Psalm 90

***OPENING HYMN** “O Day of Radiant Gladness” NCH #66, vv. 1-3

O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light;
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
This day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
Sing “Holy, holy, holy” to the great God triune.

This day at the creation the light first had its birth;
this day for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;
This day our God victorious the Spirit sent from heaven,
And thus this day most glorious a triple light was given.

This day God’s people, meeting, the Holy Scripture hear;
Christ’s living presence greeting, through bread and cup made near.
We journey on, believing, renewed with heavenly might,
From grace more grace receiving on this blessed day of light.

Words: St. 1-2, C. Wordsworth, alt. St 3, Charles Price, alt. St 4, *The Hymnal* 1982, alt.; Music: ES FLOG
EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN, Charles Woodward, 1904.
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CALL TO CONFESSION

Walt Case, *Liturgist*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All

Gracious Lord, you created the whole world and called it good, but we look out at your world and see division and suffering. You call us to maintain the unity of spirit in the bond of peace, but we choose division over diversity, confrontation over civility, conflict over peace born from justice. You call us to love the least of these among us, but we hear the cries of the oppressed and choose our own comfort. We allow senseless suffering rather than sacrifice for our neighbors. Forgive us. Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ. Rekindle in us your gifts — the spirit of power, love and self-discipline — that with faith in Christ, we might be made new and be part of bringing forth your peaceable world.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Janet Maykus

PASSING 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.**

* 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

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

NCH #498

All children are invited to come forward to take a blue basket to collect offerings. For the month of November, we are collecting cold weather clothes such as gloves, hats, socks, coats, jackets, leggings, etc., which we will put in our Little Free Food Pantry. Clean, used items in good shape will also be accepted (no holes or tears).

Refrain:

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors
We have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends,
Silently washing their feet,
Jesu, you acted as servant to them.**

Refrain

**Neighbors are rich and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are near and far away.**

Refrain

**These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.**

Refrain

**Loving puts us on our knees,
showing our faith by our deeds,
serving the neighbors we have from you.**

Refrain

**Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.**

Refrain

Words: Tom Colvin, 1969, rev. 1994. Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk song adapted by Tom Colvin, 1969, arranged by Jane Marshal, 1982. © 1995 *The New Century Hymnal*

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Emily Jamison Guerrero
Director of Children's Ministries

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 blessing, 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

"Go in Peace"

1 Go in peace,

2,3 God of love un-til next time. My love will
un-til next time. God will

go with you. God of peace, you. Go in peace, go in love
be with

un-til next time; My love will go with you.

My love goes with you. God of peace,

you. God will be with you.

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*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSVUE)

Walt Case, *Liturgist*

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an

abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Investing While the Boss Is Away

Rev. Janet Maykus

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Take My Gifts”

NCH #562, v. 1 & 3

**Take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free.
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

**Take whatever I can offer -- gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.**

Words: Shirley Elena Murray 1991. Music: TALAVERA TERRACE; Colin Gibson, 1991. Copyright ©
1992 Hope Publishing Company, ©1995 *The New Century Hymnal*.

— — PRAYER TIME — —

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Janet Maykus

As petitions conclude, each will end with:

One: O God,

All: **hear our prayer.**

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

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Creator who is in heaven, holy is your name. Your 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 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.*

***DOXOLOGY** “Now Thank We All Our God” NCH #419, v. 3

**All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
to Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,
The one, eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore!**

Text: Martin Rinkart, 1647, transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt. Music: NUN DANKET, Johann Crüger, 1647, harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840 ©1995 The New Century Hymnal

— — HOLY COMMUNION — —

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Rev. Janet Maykus

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

TABLE BLESSING

Carol Barrett, *Deacon*

CALL TO THE TABLE

Rev. Janet

*Christ invites everyone to his table,
no matter who they are or where they are on life’s journey.
You may come down the center aisle for communion, beginning with the front pews.*

*You may open your palms to signify you would like a piece of the common loaf,
and you may dip it in the split chalice that holds red wine and white grape juice.*

*Alternatively, the minister will hold a tray of sealed communion kits
which contain gluten-free wafers and juice.*

Please partake in the way that works best for you.

Special Music

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Janet

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-- WE GO OUT TO SERVE --

*SENDING HYMN

“Now As We Leave This Assembly of Lovers”

8

1. Now, as you leave this as - sem - bly of lo - vers, car - ry the
2. Cen - ter your mind on the things that are pre - cious, all that is

15

gift that your heart has re - ceived, As you've been treat - ed, go out and treat o - thers,
sa - cred and wor - thy of praise. Love all the world with a pas - sion so reck - less

22

shar - ing the grace that is end - less - ly free. Keep on bless - ing the
you will know won - der the rest of your days.

world as you do. Wel - come the stran - ger and of - fer a feast. Work to bring jus - tice.

Strive to show kind - ness. Sure - ly the Ho - ly will bless you with peace. 2nd

Biblical references: Micah 6:8; Matthew 7:12; Philippians 4:8-9 | Text and music © 2019 Amanda Udis-Kessler. All rights reserved. | Email: amanda@amandaudiskessler.com | New hymns: queersacredmusic.com | Permission is given for free use of this hymn.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Janet Maykus

*SENDING

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

POSTLUDE

Nick Jimenez

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Adult Discussion Class will meet this morning at 11:15am in Room 10. All adults are welcome to come after the worship service to discuss topics and questions from Rev. Janet's sermon.

Also following worship, the Worship Team will finish up Advent Planning. All are welcome to join Worship Team Lead Clark Thompson and this year's Decorator Extraordinaire John Schwartz in the Sanctuary at 11:15am to finalize plans for the services in December and the decorations throughout the building during Advent and Christmas.

Our Tuesday afternoon book club will be discussing Kate Bowler's Advent Devotional "Bless the Advent We Actually Have" from Tuesday, November 21, through Tuesday, December 12. The Advent Devotional is daily, but the book group will focus on the Sunday blessings. Please contact the church office for Zoom information or if you would like a printed copy of the Advent Devotional.

Our Advent Social Justice collection will be cold weather clothes such as gloves, hats, socks, coats, jackets, leggings, etc., which we will put in our Little Free Pantry. Clean, used items in good shape will also be accepted. You may place your contributions directly into the Pantry, or in the baskets that the children carry around during worship.

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Next Sunday, November 26, following the 10am worship service, the building will undergo the Advent transformation! We need all hands on deck to put up the tree, wreath, garland, lights, and more. In addition to that, the Children's Ministry is sponsoring an Advent Craft Workshop for all ages. We will have supplies out in the Fellowship Hall for making beautiful Advent wreaths, calendars, and more. All ages are invited to take a part in this holiday fun.

In addition to the decorating and crafting on Sunday, November 26, our Community Connections Team is hosting a church potluck. Since it's the weekend after Thanksgiving, this will be our UCC Friendsgiving. All are invited to bring a finger food snack to share (savory or sweet) and the church will provide lemonade and tea. Folks can enjoy the snacks as they decorate, craft, and remember all that we have to be thankful for.

All - children and adults - are also invited to bring an ornament to place on the "Church Family Tree" in the Fellowship Hall. These can be ornaments that kids have made, picture frame ornaments, ones that are special to you for any reason, etc. So create or pick out your ornament(s) soon, and please bring your ornament(s) to church on November 26 or December 3 so they can be up all season!