

A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for the
Second Sunday of Lent
March 16, 2025
10:00 A.M.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ



WE GATHER

Gathering Music

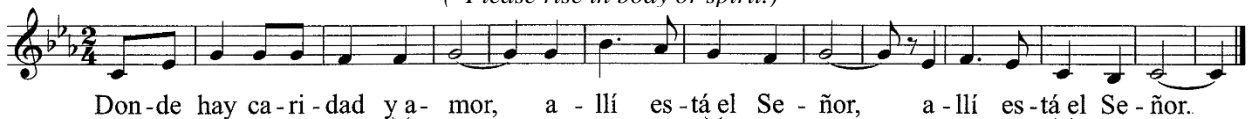
*Coming Home
This Is My Song*

Alexis French
Jean Sibelius arr. Marcia Wells

*Introit

Donde hay caridad (2x)
(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Joaquín Madurga



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Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing Those Gifts and Regathering in Song

Donde hay caridad (1x)

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Call to Lent from Psalm 27 (cong. bold)

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.
**One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,**

**to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in the temple.**
For God will shelter me in the day of trouble;
The Lord will conceal me under the cover of a tent.
**Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!**
**I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.**
Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

Musical Call to Worship

A Lenten Walk (excerpt)

arr. Hal Hopson

The Call to Worship

Be still, and know that God is.

God was, also, in the beginning.

And when all human striving has ceased, God will still be.

From everlasting to everlasting, God is God and alone is worthy to be worshiped.

Let us sing praise to our God.

*Hymn 414 *Incarcate God, Immortal Love* (1-3, 5) Alfred Tennyson/Rockingham

WE PREPARE

Prayer of Invocation

Eternal One,

Silence from whom our words come;

Questioner from whom our questions arise;

Lover of whom all our loves are hints;

Disturber in whom alone we find our rest;

Mystery in whose depths we find healing and ourselves;

Enfold us now in your presence;

restore to us your peace;

renew us through your power;

and ground us in your grace. Amen.

A Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of Grace

*Our Song of Praise 414 *Incarcate God, Immortal Love* (st. 6) Alfred Tennyson/Rockingham

(During the song, children are invited to Children's Ministry with Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.)

WE ENGAGE

From the Good News of Jesus Christ

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.'

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

"See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Hymn 222 *My Song Is Love Unknown* (1-2, 5) Samuel Crossman/Rhosymedre

Sermon

The Fox in the Hen House

Silent Reflection

A Musical Response *Thy Holy Wings* arr. Bradley Ellingboe

WE RESPOND

Offering Our Prayers and the Lord's Prayer *(please pray any version)*

Offering the Gifts God has Given Us

Offertory *Peace Piece* Bill Evans

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Bless our tithes and offerings, O God, returned to you. Multiply and use these, and all your gifts, to bring the light of Christ's love through our love for our kindred and neighbors around the world and for all creation. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 582

O God of Earth and Altar

G. K. Chesterton/Llangloffan

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison

Ukrainian Orthodox Church (c. 900)

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning, and invite you to join in the programs of education, music and service during Lent. Again, welcome!

United's Kids begin the service with the congregation, then go to Children's Ministry to "Celebrate Caring for Creation" with Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.

We welcome the Rev. Benjamin Larzelere as our guest preacher this morning. Ben is an ordained Lutheran minister, who served the Christ Lutheran congregation for many years and is known for his scholarship, faith, and commitment to Jesus' ways of justice, peace, and compassion. Also sharing worship leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Michelle Schumann, Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; Rebecca Brunette, soprano soloist; Elijah Marquez, Media Director; and Frank Wilbanks, Sound Technician. You were greeted by Kimberly Zeilik, Rosemary Thompson, Pam Hyde, Diane Darby, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata.

The word used by Luke to describe Herod (Antipas) in the Gospel Reading for this morning is ἀλώπηξ (ah-low-pex), literally "fox". Jesus says, "Go tell that ἀλώπηξ —". He does not mean of course the animal; the word is used figuratively: a wicked person, with the implication of being cunning and treacherous; some scholars translate the word as "worthless". We get the point. Herod is — for a variety of reasons and by his very nature and personality and immoral actions — a worthless, evil, wicked, cunning and treacherous ruler.

Changed for Good—Today's 11:15 Forum

Reunity Resources Composting Program – March 16

Juliana Ciano, Program Director of Reunity Resources (one of United's environmental partners) is our guest to share Reunity's wide-ranging programs (gardening with kids, musical events, support for public schools, etc.) that go far beyond composting. (Pick up free composting bags today in the Community Room!)

Interested in Joining United?

"Meaning of Membership" Forum This Sunday

We're welcoming new members next Sunday (March 23). This Sunday during the Adult Forum time, we'll offer a chance to learn more about the United Church and what membership means. All welcome! (Also if you're interested in joining United next Sunday, please let Talitha Arnold or Diane Darby know.)

Wednesday Women's Study Group (March 19 – 10:00 am)

This week we study *House Made of Dawn* by N. Scott Momaday. All women welcome! (Cheryl Morton: 515-240-4523, MomMorton@gmail.com; Jenn Wynn: 817-219-0707, home@wynnes.us)

Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of Mark

Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MT) on Zoom

This Zoom study started during the pandemic. Five years later, we still need the "Resiliency and Hope" of our Biblical faith. In Lent, we conclude the Gospel of Mark with the Holy Week story—God's love and life overcoming fear and death. All welcome! Register/Info: unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Support Santa Fe's Shelters

This Friday and Following Monday

Join in "Chop and Grate" this Friday (March 21, 9:30) to prepare casseroles for the Interfaith, Casa Familia, and St. Elizabeth Shelters and/or make meatloaves at home and/or help deliver on Monday, March 24. Contact Pat Roach to help: 505-988-7357, proach102@comcast.net.

New Members Welcomed Next Sunday – Third Sunday of Lent, March 23

We'll receive new members into the United Church community on the Third Sunday of Lent (next Sunday, March 23). If you're interested in joining, please speak with Talitha Arnold (505-988-3295). Thanks! (If the date doesn't work for you, please let her know that, too. Thanks.)

At United, we seek to "Love God, Neighbor, Creation" in a whole lot of ways. . .

Support for Ukrainian and Central American refugees, reducing our carbon impact, emergency funds for our Diné/Navajo neighbors, and more! Go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to find out how you can help. Thank you!

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle!

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Pick up compostable garbage bags at the church (NO standard plastic bags, please), fill them at home, and bring back to put in the green bin by the Children's Garden. More things in compost bins means less in landfills. (Also at church, **please put coffee cups and napkins in compost cans in the Community Room.**) Thanks!

WHERE'S HOME? — LENT AT UNITED

Lent starts in the wilderness of Judea and leads to the wilderness of Golgotha. It also challenges us to find our home all along the way—whether within our own souls, our nation, or our Earth home. In worship and adult faith formation this Lent, we're invited to consider our own understandings of "home," especially how to love and care for our Earth home.

Midweek Communion in Lent – Wednesdays (12:15 pm to 12:45 pm)

Do you yearn for silence or an opportunity to breathe, pray, replenish? Starting Wednesday, March 12, United offers a **Lenten Noontime Communion (12:15- 12:45)**. All welcome to recharge and renew (through Holy Week: April 16).

UPCOMING SUNDAY FORUMS

Living in One's Holy Land — Next Sunday's Forum (March 23)

As Christians, we share sacred stories set in faraway places. In contrast, United member Mary Hasbah Roessel grew up in the Navajo/Dine homeland, with sacred places like Spider Woman's Rock. How does our relationship with the land change if our sacred stories take place in the sacred land we call home?

Two Events – Sunday, March 30

Pretty Good Guys All-Church Pancake Breakfast & "*Changing Lenses, Changing Lives*" in Kenya

United's "Pretty Good Guys" rustle up some very good pancakes and invite you to join them for an All-Church Breakfast this Sunday. Also, for those who are interested, Wyclif Gitonga—a colleague of Jennifer Wynne—and Director of the Kenyan non-profit, "Changing Lenses, Changing Lives" shares his work.

Welcoming Immigrants in Santa Fe With Mayor Alan Webber Sunday, April 6

Although Santa Fe is not officially a "sanctuary city," our charter affirms that the city is welcoming to all people. What does that mean practically, particularly in light of the current crackdown on immigrants nationwide? For one, Mayor Alan Webber has started up the city's Immigration Committee and also appeared on national news underscoring Santa Fe's commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive community. As our April 6th Forum guest, he'll share his views and ways for faith communities to welcome our neighbors in this time.


OTHER STUDE OPPORTUNITIES

***Sacred Nature: Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World* by Karen Armstrong 5-Week Lenten Book Study: 5:30 pm – Wednesdays (Mar. 19, 26, Apr. 2, 9)**

Historian of religion Karen Armstrong explores how recognizing our connection to (not separation from) nature is essential for effective action to care for creation. How can experiencing nature change our hearts and minds to meet modern challenges? (Joan Snider, 505-424-3732)

Into the Deep – 2025 Lenten Daily Devotional Booklets in Community Room

Take a copy of the Lenten Daily Devotional Booklet, published by the United Church of Christ, featuring national UCC leaders (including Talitha Arnold). Join with others in Lent's journey to Easter's new life.



***A Place Called Home* by Bradley Ellingboe and Tony Silvestri New Mexico Premiere Saturday, April 12 – 4:00 pm at Lensic Theater with Orchestra, Soloists and the combined choirs of Coro Lux and the United Church (Panel Discussion at 2:30 pm)**

A Place Called Home is a musical plea for our Earth home, composed by Bradley Ellingboe (United's Director of Music) with lyricist Tony Silvestri. This dramatic cantata premiered in Carnegie Hall in April of 2023. This spring, on Saturday, April 12, the work will have its New Mexico premiere at the Lensic Theater, with the combined choruses of United's Sanctuary Choir and *Coro Lux* (thanks largely to United's sponsorship in renting the hall and the NM State Arts Council for underwriting the cost of the soloists).

Plan to come—and invite friends—to the Lensic concert on Saturday, April 12, 4:00 pm—and also to the 2:30 Panel Discussion with composer Ellingboe and lyricist Silvestri, along with Environmental Ethicist Larry Rasmussen and Navajo/Diné Psychiatrist Mary Hasbah Roessel, moderated by Talitha Arnold. (Concert tickets at lensic.org/events/a-place-called-home/)