A SERVICE OF THE WORD
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

November 8, 2026
10:00 A.M.

God is already here.

For Reflection:

One of the curious stories that circulate in many Native American communities is the story of elders who can change the direction of tornadoes. When I was young I heard about medicine people who could stand facing a storm and move it in a safer direction. Is that true? I cannot say, but the idea alone intrigues me. A single person, standing in the path of disaster, willing it to move away. I think that describes a lot of us these days. I see many elders standing up and speaking out. They may not be able to stop the wind, but they are calling on Someone who can.

Choctaw Elder and Episcopal Bishop Steven Charleston

WE GATHER

(May the first note of the Prelude be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship.)

Gathering Music — *Gymnopédie No. 1* — Erik Satie
The Lord is My Light — Stephanie Steele

*Congregational Introit — ***Give Me Oil in My Lamp*** — Traditional

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning, burning, burning,
give me oil in my lamp, I pray;
give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning, burning, burning,
keep me burning till the break of day.
[Refrain] Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the break of day!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the day!

Give me hope in my heart, keep me singing, singing, singing, singing,
give me hope in my heart, I pray;
give me hope in my heart, keep me singing, singing, singing,
keep me singing till the break of day. [Refrain]

Blessing and Sharing of Our Life and Ministry

"Building Hope for the Future" Campaign for United 2027

*Sharing God's Blessings — *"Blessings for this Blessed Day!"*

*Regathering in Song — ***Give Me Oil in My Lamp*** (vs. 1) — Traditional

Welcoming All and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship — *Keep Your Lamps* — African American Spiritual/arr. André Thomas

The Call to Worship **(congregation bold)**

Praise God, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair.
¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!
¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!
Praise God, who gathers up fragments of our lives and creates new possibilities.
¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!
Praise God, who laid the foundation of the earth and all the children of God shouted for joy!
¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!
People of God, come. Shout for joy and sing your praise to God.

*Hymn 476 — ***My Life Flows on in Endless Song*** (1-3) — Robert Lowry/Endless Song

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation (based on a sermon of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

We praise you, O God, that by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
You have shown us time and again, you <u>are</u> able,
able to deliver us from the power of death,
able to make a way out of no way,
able to overcome our fears with your love and new life.
Give us the courage to entrust our lives to you and the faith to know that you are able,
able to transform desolate valleys into sunlit paths of joy,
able to bring new life into the dark caverns of pessimism,
able to help us face the uncertainties of the future
and turn dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.
May our faith in you be our hope for being better human beings.
May the power of your new life be our mandate to make a better world for all your people.
Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

*Song of Praise ***My Life Flows on in Endless Song*** Robert Lowry

I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's—how can I keep from singing?

WE WELCOME AND BLESS

The Welcoming of New Members

Words of Welcome from the United Church of Christ *Book of Worship*

By your baptism, you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith, which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Questions of the Candidates

- Affirming their desire to affirm their baptismal vows and join the Church.
- Renouncing evil and seeking the freedom of new life that God offers.
- Promising to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ, in God's ways of love and justice.
- Honoring the covenant to be a faithful member of the Church.

Questions of the Congregation

You have heard the affirmation of these people. Will you now welcome them into the common life of this church? Will you promise them your friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and ministry of this community of faith?

We promise with the help of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in that knowledge and love of God and be witnesses of Jesus' ways of hope and justice in our world.

Sharing the Covenant of the United Church of Santa Fe

In the Lord's name we gather together here in Santa Fe
to worship and grow in the Christian tradition,
to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
to minister in love to all persons, to strive for justice and peace,
to respond to God's word.
We celebrate the heritage of Santa Fe and give
ourselves to its challenges and opportunities.
We endeavor to live in harmony with all creation
as stewards of the earth.
We share in the life and mission of the United Church of Christ
and of Christians everywhere.
To these purposes we unite and covenant with God
and one another, watchful for the guidance and open to the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Prayer of Blessing and Laying On of Hands

Signing the Covenant 471 ***What a Covenant*** Elisha A. Hoffman/Anthony J. Showalter
(After the song, the children are invited to *Kids United*.)

WE ENGAGE

From the Good News of Jesus Christ Gospel of Matthew 25:1-13

> "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. . . . and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. . . . Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Sermon *Tending Hope's Light*

A Time of Silent Reflection

Musical Response *The Storm Is Passing Over* Charles Albert Tindley/Barbara Baker

WE RESPOND

Presenting Our Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 436 ***God of Grace and God of Glory*** (1-3, 5) Harry Emerson Fosdick/Cwm Rhondda

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction ***Kyrie Eleison*** Ukrainian Orthodox Chant
Kyrie eleison Christie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

***Soli Deo Gloria*—To God Alone the Glory.**

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WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We hope you'll also join in the fellowship time after the service. Visiting today? Welcome! Please fill out the yellow "visitors card." That helps us be a more welcoming congregation – and we promise not to inundate you with emails ☺. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership in this morning's service are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Sam Elkind, Moderator; Dana Bender, Family Ministry Director; Michelle Schumann, Music Director and Pianist; John Tiranno, Choir Director; the United Choir; Dawn Williams, Liturgist; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. You were welcomed by Rosemary Thompson, Louise Cavatta, Blanca Surgeon, Pam Hyde, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

We welcome several new members this morning (Jenna Rode, Catie Waldeck, Rebecca Anne Best, Dona Cook, Angela Markus, Palma Dell, and Leslie Cook). Please take time after the service to extend your welcome and blessings.

The flowers on the table are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Susan Chavez, whose Memorial Service was yesterday to give thanks for her life and commit her soul to God's eternal care and light.

Kids United Today – Sing Their Thanks!

1st through 5th Graders are invited to ***Kids United*** where today they'll learn how to sing their thanks with songs we'll use in the Thanks-Singing Service in two weeks (November 22).

TWO SUNDAY FORUMS TODAY (11:15 am)

When the Holidays Are Different

For all their joy, Thanksgiving and the Christmas season can be challenging, especially after a death, divorce, or other loss. They're also hard if we can't meet our children's—or others'—expectations. Join in this discussion and get resources to prepare for this holiday season.

The Church's Budget: What's in It—and Where Does It Come from?

United's volunteer Stewardship and Finance Team share how United's budget supports our values as a church—where the money goes and where it comes from. All welcome!

ALSO COMING UP THIS WEEK

Lin Raymond, Office Administrator, is out of the office from tomorrow through Friday, Nov. 18. The Church Office will be closed this Monday and next Monday, but open Tuesday through Friday both weeks. In an emergency, please call Talitha Arnold (505-690-5327). If it's not an emergency, please call the church office and leave a message. Thank you.

Tour Santa Fe's *Food Depot* – This Tuesday, Nov. 10 – 9:30 am

Last year, The Food Depot's hunger-relief programs and partner agencies distributed *10 million pounds* of food across Northern New Mexico. Join United's tour of the Depot this Tuesday and find out how they do it! (And what we can do to help.) Sign up at church or at 505-988-3295.

***Books That Didn't Make It into the Bible* – Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday (10:30 am – Noon)**

Not all Gospels made it into the Bible. What were they? What did they say? And why weren't they included? Join these lively biweekly discussions. Steve Hamilton leads the discussion.

The Sanctuary Choir Welcomes You!

Like to sing—and with others? Then sing with the choir. They rehearse Wednesdays, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, and in the 10:00 service (with a 9:00 rehearsal). (Choir Director John Tiranno (unitechurch.john@gmail.com) or Music Director Michelle Schumann (unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com).

***Forgiveness: What does the Bible say and why is it so hard?* – Thursday, at 8:00 am (via Zoom)**

People tune in from around the country. You're invited, too. Contact unitedchurchsf@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

***Moses and Jesus Go to the Movies* – Renesan Series with Talitha Arnold**
Starts This Thursday (Nov. 12) at Sky Cinema Midtown – 10:00 am
(and continues next Thursday, Nov. 19)



American authors and movie directors have drawn upon both Jewish and Christian scriptures for themes, plots, and scenes. Through short readings, film clips, and visual art, Talitha Arnold explores the impact of ancient sacred texts on U.S. movies, particularly Melville's *Moby Dick* and Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. Info/Registration: renesan.org/moses-and-jesus-go-to-the-movies/.

***BUILDING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE* – Campaign for United 2027**
All Church Burrito Brunch – Next Sunday, Nov. 15 (after both services)

We have a lot to celebrate at United! A strong, growing community for all ages. Worship that strengthens and feeds us. Music that blesses us. Opportunities to grow in faith and understanding. Multiple ways to care for our neighbors and God's creation. And like every community, we have some challenges, too, especially financially in these times.

Next Sunday, we'll come together to share good food and fellowship—and make our 2027 financial pledges for United's life and ministry. Your pledge makes lots of things possible. Most of all, your pledge makes **hope** possible, now and in the future. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for the Burrito Brunch in the Community Room or by calling 505-988-3295 or by email (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

Love God by Loving Our Neighbors (and keeping them warm) – Clothing and Blanket Drive

Clean out your closets and bring new and gently used jackets, sweaters, hats, and blankets to United for St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Shelters, Interfaith Community Services, and Nava Elementary School. Kids can help, too—with outgrown jackets, etc. To make a financial donation please memo your check "Clothing/Blankets") or go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Invite neighbors and friends, too. Using the Church as a central clearing house makes donating easy! Also-- lend a hand sorting and delivering. Please email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or call 505-988-3295 to say you'll help! Thank you!!

Toiletries for Shelter Christmas Bags – Community Room Boxes for all items

Individual new toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush) for Christmas Bags children and adults will assemble for St. Elizabeth shelter guests (both women and men) during the Advent Community Supper, Friday, Dec. 4) (**No** mouthwash, medications, razors).

Save the Date – Family Game Night is coming! – Friday, December 4 (5:30 - 7:30 pm)

Come one, come all! This is an intergenerational evening of lasagna, hygiene pack assembling, and game playing! RSVP by December 1 to Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com) or to the church office (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).