

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
for the  
**Third Sunday of Lent**  
**March 8, 2026**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE**  
**A United Church of Christ**

**WE GATHER**

Gathering Music

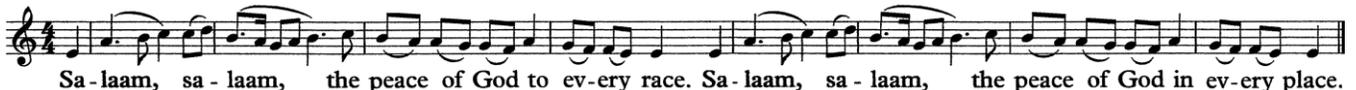
*Toccatà in E Minor*  
*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

J.S. Bach  
arr. James Michael Stevens

\*Introit

***Salaam/Peace*** (2x)  
(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Manal Samir



Sa - laam, sa - laam, the peace of God to ev-ery race. Sa - laam, sa - laam, the peace of God in ev-ery place.

© 2002 Songs of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt (Admin. by  
Christian Reformed Church in North America) – CCLI License #785135

Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Commissioning the Prayer Child Pray-ers and Blessing United's Youth and Children

Sharing God's Gifts and Regathering in Song

***Salaam/Peace*** (1x)

Manal Samir

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Call to Lent from the Psalms

Psalm 42

As a hart longs  
for flowing streams,  
so longs my soul for thee, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When shall I come and behold the face of God?  
My tears have been my food day and night,  
while people say to me continually,  
"Where is your God?"

My soul is cast down within me,  
therefore I remember thee  
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,  
from Mount Mizar.  
Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise the Lord,  
my help and my God.

Choral Call to Worship

*When, Like the Woman at the Well*

Edith Sinclair Downing/Craven

The Call to Worship

We gather to worship God, the Lord and Giver of Life, for God gives the water of new life. *Dios da el agua de la nueva vida.*

**God gives the water of new life. Dios da el agua de la nueva vida.**

In the deserts of our lives, in the wilderness within,

**Dios da el agua de la nueva vida.**

To give us hope when our lives run dry,  
to give us strength when our world seems barren.

**Dios da el agua de la nueva vida.**

To make justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a living stream,  
To give us—and our world—a second chance and a new beginning,

**Dios da el agua de la nueva vida.**

Come, people of God, open your lives to receive God's new life. Open your hearts to sing God's praise.

\*Hymn 484

***O Come to Me, You Weary*** (1-3)

William C. Dix/Meirionydd (Welsh)

**WE PREPARE**

A Musical Call to Prayer

*O Come, Everyone that Thirsteth from Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn

A Prayer of Invocation (Liturgist offers the prayer in Spanish, followed by the congregation offering it in English.)

*Como el ciervo anhela corrientes de agua, como el viajero fatigado anhela las aguas de la vida, así nuestras almas te anhelan a ti, oh Dios. Refrésanos, límpianos, sánenos con tu agua viva. Derrama tu Espíritu sobre nosotros para que nuestras vidas puedan desbordar de tu amor. Derrama tu Espíritu sobre toda la creación para que la justicia pueda descender como aguas y la rectitud como un poderoso río. Amén.*

**As a deer longs for living streams, as a weary traveler longs for the waters of life, so our souls long for you, O God. Refresh us, cleanse us, heal us with your living water. Pour out your Spirit upon us so our lives might overflow with your love. Pour out your Spirit upon all creation so that justice might roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. Amen.**

A Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of Grace

\*Song of Praise

### *Santo, Santo, Santo*

anon./Argentina

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Santo, Santo, Santo'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: '¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My'. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: 'cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios. heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.' The music is in 6/8 time and features a simple, melodic line in the treble clef and a supporting bass line in the bass clef.

*(As adults and older youth are seated, our younger ones through 5<sup>th</sup> grade go to Kids United with Family Minister Dana Bender, Tracy Church, Maria Navarette, and Destiny Muñoz.*

## WE ENGAGE

### Jesus is a Stranger in a Strange Land (John 4:1-9) New Revised Standard English Version

Now when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), he left Judea and departed again to Galilee. He had to pass through Samar'ia.

So, he came to a city of Samar'ia, called Sy'char, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samar'ia to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

### *Creator Sets Free* is Far from Home (He Shows Goodwill 4:1-9) First Nations Version

*Creator Sets Free* (Jesus) was gathering more followers for the purification ceremony than *Gift of Goodwill* (John), although it was not he but his followers who were performing the ceremony. When *Creator Sets Free* found out that the *Separated Ones* (Pharisees) knew of this, he left the *Land of Promise* (Judea) to return to *Circle of Nations* (Galilee). On the way he had to journey through the territory of *High Place* (Samaria).

When the sun was high overhead, *Creator Sets Free*, weary from his journey, sat down to rest at the ancient watering hole of *Heel Grabber* (Jacob) while the ones who walked the road with him went to the nearby village to find some food.

A woman from *High Place* came to the well to draw water. *Creator Sets Free* saw the woman and said to her, "Would you give me something to drink?" She asked, "Why would you, a man from the tribes of *Wrestles with Creator* (Israel) ask me for a drink, a woman from High Place?"

## WE RECEIVE AND RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer (*We close with the Lord's Prayer—please pray any version.*)

### Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory

*As the Deer*

Nystrom/arr. Medema

Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn 591

*This is My Song*

Lloyd Stone/Jean Sibelius (Finlandia)

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

*Kyrie eleison*

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

*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. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

#### **TODAY AT UNITED**

##### **Ministry with Children**

Children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade begin the service with the congregation, then go to *Kids United* to learn about and explore Jesus' encounter with a woman of a different race, religion, and nationality, with Family Minister Dana Bender, Volunteer Tracy Church, and Ministry Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.

##### **Prayer Child Ministry Commissioning Service**

Here at United, each child and youth has a Prayer Child "pray-er," who has volunteered to hold that child in daily prayer. Today, we bless the "pray-ers" and our children and youth at the beginning of the 10:00 service. After the service there will be opportunity for the children and youth to meet their "pray-ers."

##### **Youth Confirmants/Initiates Meet with Their Mentors After Worship**

They're working on their Statements of Faith (i.e., how do they understand God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Church) in preparation for the "Celebration of Our Journeys of Life and Faith" on Sunday, May 10. Save the date!

##### **Sacred Art Tells the Stories of Immigrants and Refugees**

On the Communion Table and around the Community Room are *santos* and *bultos*—traditional Northern New Mexico Hispanic sacred art—telling Biblical stories of immigrants and refugees. The works include the "Flight to Egypt" portraying Joseph and Mary fleeing to another country their newborn son Jesus because of violence in their homeland. On the Communion Table is a water jug, painted and illustrated by Santero Juanito Jimenez, representing the water jugs used by people crossing the Chihuahuan and Sonoran Deserts to find new life for themselves and their families. The *bulto* (carved wooden statue) of Mary in the Community Room was created by Doreen and Ronald Martinez. Mary's cloak shelters children from around the world, and the inscription below her reads "Construir un puente, no una pared." ("Build a bridge, not a wall.")

##### **The Meaning of Membership – Sunday Forum**

Interested in learning more about the United Church of Santa Fe? Questions about what it means to be a member? You're invited to today's Forum (in the Learning Center)! Come with your questions and wonderings. It's also an opportunity to meet new people (both visitors and members alike) and learn some things about the United Church. (Also, coming to the Forum isn't a commitment to join—it's simply a time to get acquainted.) All welcome!

Sharing worship leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Dana Bender, Family Minister; Steve Hamilton, Blanca Surgeon, David Feldt, Nyla Rasmussen, Melanie Lohman, Liturgists and Readers; Michelle Schumann, Pianist/Director of Music; Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; and Elijah Marquez, Media Director, with Audio Volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Ministers of Hospitality Louise Cavatta, Pam Hyde, Tom and Sally Stewart, and Karen Wilbanks; and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

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

Do you yearn for silence or an opportunity to breathe, pray, replenish? Wednesday during Lent, United offers a **Lenten Noontime Communion (12:15- 12:45)**. All welcome to recharge and renew (through Holy Week: April 1).

### **Easter Flower Remembrances**

Is there someone you'd like to honor or remember with the donation of a lily displayed at United Church this Easter? Please fill out the form in the Community Room and leave it with your donation in the envelope or the offering plate by **Sunday, March 22**. Suggested donation is \$20 per lily. The names will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletins.

### **Outgrow – 2026 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.

### **New Members Welcomed – Next Sunday—The Joyous Sunday of Lent – March 15**

We'll receive new members into the United Church community next Sunday. 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.)

### **Study Opportunities**

#### ***What Are Biblical Values? -- Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday (10:30 am)***

Through spring, the Pretty Good Guys invites all men to join in a study of "What Are Biblical Values?" by Yale professor John Collins. Books available for purchase in the Community Room. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

#### ***The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong* Wednesdays (5:30-6:45 pm)**

Karen Gonzales' *The God Who Sees* is a short book that combines the author's story of immigrating from Guatemala to the U.S. as a child with stories of Biblical immigrants and refugees (Ruth and Naomi, Abraham, Jesus, etc.). All welcome. Signup sheet and copies of the book in Community Room.

#### ***Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of John* Thursdays 8:00 am (MT) on Zoom**

This Zoom study started during the pandemic. Six years later, we still need the "Resiliency and Hope" of our Biblical faith. In Lent, we're exploring the challenging and sometimes confusing Gospel of John. All welcome! Register/Info: [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

### **Help Santa Fe Families!**

#### **Donations for Santa Fe Kids' School Supplies**

United is a founding member of the new Santa Fe Faith Coalition for Immigration. Through March, United invites your donations for two Santa Fe organizations that support children's education and immigrant families. Please use Community Room bins for the Public Schools' **Adelante Program** (19-inch backpacks, 1-inch 3-ring binders, and watercolor sets) and for **Reading Quest** (new or clean and gently used stuffed animals, toys, and games). Thank you!

#### **Food Depot's "School Pantry Food Drive"**

Did you know that some Santa Fe families are afraid to go grocery shopping because of ICE? Or that many Santa Fe children have no healthy food over the weekend? The Food Depot's "Pantry Rooms" in local schools provide individually wrapped healthy snacks (granola bars, protein bars, etc.); beef or turkey jerky; or ready-to-eat protein meals that can be microwaved (e.g., Rice-a-Roni, tuna fish kits, etc.) for kids to eat at home. You can help by stocking the bins here at United! Thank you.

#### **ICE'S IMPACT ON SANTA FE KIDS AND FAMILIES**

##### **Radio KSFR 101.1 FM --Archives**

Rev. Talitha Arnold recently interviewed representatives from *Santa Fe Communities in Schools* on how ICE raids have impacted Santa Fe's children, youth, and families—and how communities like United Church can help. *Santa Fe Dreamer Project* founder Alegra Love was also interviewed. The show is available online at **KSFR.org** (archives). Tune in!

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

Support for Ukrainian, Central American, and Sudanese refugees, reducing our carbon impact, emergency funds for our Diné/Navajo neighbors, and more! Go to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://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 bins in the Community Room.) Thanks!

#### **Care for Creation and Offset Your Carbon Use**

United's "Carbon Offset Program" helps plant trees and change policies to address climate change. It's simple to do: track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to our partners *Tree New Mexico* and *NM Interfaith Power and Light*. Info: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care). (In 2025, United donated \$3,300, part of which came from individuals and the other part from the church's operating budget to offset carbon use of staff mileage.)