

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for the
First Sunday of Lent
March 9, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

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

For Reflection:

"It's strange how deserts turn us into believers. I believe in walking in a landscape of mirages, because you learn humility. I believe in living in a land of little water because life is drawn together. And I believe in the gathering of bones as a testament to spirits that have moved on. If the desert is holy, it is because it is a forgotten place that allows us to remember the sacred. Perhaps that is why every pilgrimage to the desert is a pilgrimage to the self."

Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

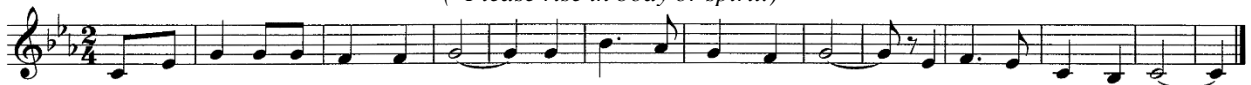
*Sinfonia in D Major
As the Deer*

J.S. Bach
Martin Nystrom/arr. Ken Medema

*Introit

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

Joaquín Madurga



Don-de hay ca-ri-dad ya- mor, a - llí es - tá el Se - ñor, a - llí es - tá el Se - ñor.

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Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing Those Gifts and Regathering in Song

Donde hay caridad (1x)

Joaquín Madurga

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Call to Lent from the Psalms

Psalm 91

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."
Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling-place,

no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent . . .
When you call to me, I will answer you;
I will be with you in trouble,
I will rescue you and honor you.
With long life I will satisfy you,
and show you my salvation.

Musical Call to Worship

How Can I Choose But Love?

Herbert Howells

The Call to Worship

To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.

O our God, in you we trust; make us to know your ways.

O Lord, teach us your paths.

Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation;
for you we wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

According to your steadfast love remember us, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.**

People of God, trust the One who leads us on Lent's journey to new life.



1. We join, O Christ, Your jour - ney These sol - emn for - ty days.
 2. Your self - de - ni - al shames us When safe - ty is our goal,
 3. You came, O Christ, a - mong us With might and right to reign;
 4. This Lent, O Lord, em - pow'r us To grow in faith - ful - ness.



As with Your twelve dis - ci - ples You walk im - per - iled ways.
 When, keen to claim ad - van - tage, We win but lose our soul.
 Yet, though a king - dom beck - oned, You chose the path of pain.
 Let self - con - cern di - min - ish; Let self - less love in - crease.



Like theirs, our steps are halt - ing, Our faith - ful - ness un - sure.
 We watch You reach to oth - ers With o - pen, giv - ing hands
 A robe, a crown, a scep - ter You count - ed these but loss
 Christ, keep Your cross be - fore us Till ours we dai - ly bear



Lord, when we fal - ter, help us To fol - low and en - dure.
 And see a - gain our fail - ure To an - swer love's de - mands.
 And gained at last Your king - dom En - throned up - on a cross.
 And walk with You to Cal - v'ry The pain of God to share.

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Lord God, you call your servants to the journey of life and this journey of Lent.

We do not always see the way ahead.

We often walk on paths untrodden.

**Give us the faith to go with good courage,
 not knowing where we go,
 but only that your hand is leading us
 and your love supporting us.**

**Help us to trust this journey
 and the promise of Easter's new life to which it leads. Amen.**

A Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of Grace

Our Song of Praise

We Join, O Christ Your Journey (st. 4)

St. Theodulph

(During the hymn, children through 6th grade are invited to Children's Ministry.)

WE ENGAGE

Jesus and the Tempter (cong. bold)

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "**It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'**"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "**It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God.'**"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "**It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'**"

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Musical Reflection

Like as the Hart

Psalm 41/Herbert Howells

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God, when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

Sermon

The Wilderness is Home

A Prayer from Prison

Who Am I?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*Who am I? They often tell me
I stepped from my cell's confinement
calmly, cheerfully, firmly,
like a Squire from his country-house.*

*Who am I? They often tell me
I used to speak to my warders
freely and friendly and clearly,
as though it were mine to command.*

*Who am I? They also tell me
I bore the days of misfortune
equally, smilingly, proudly,
like one accustomed to win.
Am I then really all that which other men tell of?
Or am I only what I myself know of myself?*

*Restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage,
struggling for breath, as though hands were
compressing my throat,
yearning for colors, for flowers, for the voices of birds,
thirsting for words of kindness, for neighborliness,
tossing in expectation of great events,
powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite distance,
weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at making,
faint, and ready to say farewell to it all?*

*Who am I? This or the other?
Am I one person today and tomorrow another?
Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
and before myself a contemptibly woebegone weakling?
Or is something within me still like a beaten army,
fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?*

*Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.
Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am Thine!*

Silent Reflection

A Musical Response

499

Pues si vivimos (1st Spanish, 1st English)

Mexican Folk Hymn

WE RESPOND

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

Offering the Gifts God has Given Us

Offertory

Voice in the Wilderness

David Nevue

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 410

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Neumark

*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.

Sharing worship leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music, Michelle Schumann, Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; Vickie Sewing and Larry Rasmussen, Liturgists; Elijah Marquez, Media Director, and Frank Wilbanks, Sound Technician. You were greeted by Kimberly Zeilik, Louise Cavatta, Blanca Surgeon, Karen Wilbanks, Pam Hyde, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata.

***A Place Called Home* by Bradley Ellingboe and Tony Silvestri
Today's Sunday Forum – 11:15 in the Sanctuary**

**New Mexico Premiere Saturday, April 12 – 4:00 pm at Lensic Theater
(Panel Discussion at 2:30 pm)**

A Place Called Home is a dramatic cantata Bradley Ellingboe (United's Director of Music) composed with lyricist Tony Silvestri that 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).

Today's Forum is a chance to hear from both Brad and Tony Silvestri about the piece – why they wrote it, its message, and what they hope it will inspire. It's an honor to have them in dialogue here at United.

So plan to stay for their presentation after worship this morning – and plan to come to the Lensic concert on Saturday, April 12, 4:00 pm. (Also, the April 12 concert is preceded by a 2:30 Panel Discussion with the composer and lyricist, along with Environmental Ethicist Larry Rasmussen and Navajo/Diné Psychiatrist Mary Hasbah Roessel, moderated by Talitha Arnold.)

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).

SUNDAY FORUMS

Changed for Good!

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!)

Living in One's Holy Land — March 23

As Christians, we share sacred stories set in faraway places. In contrast, United member Mary Hasbah Roessel grew up in the Navajo/Diné 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?

Other Study Opportunities

“Reading Bonhoeffer in America 2025”

Ethicist Larry Rasmussen on KFSR (101.1 FM) – Tomorrow at 6:00 pm

KFSR co-hosts Talitha Arnold and Peter Smith interview Larry Rasmussen, a leading scholar of the life and works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran pastor and theologian who was part of the Resistance to Hitler and the rise of fascism in his homeland. What do Bonhoeffer's witness and writing say to our time? If you miss the live show, you can listen to it in the KFSR website archives through the end of the month.

***Sacred Nature: Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World* by Karen Armstrong
Lenten Book Study: 5:30 pm – Wednesdays (Mar. 12, 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? Sign up in Community Room. (Joan Snider, 505-424-3732)

Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday (10:30 am)

Join with other United men to engage a challenging book by John Dominic Crossan's *The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer*. All welcome.

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.

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.

**New Members Welcomed
Third Sunday of Lent – March 23**

We’ll receive new members into the United Church community on the Third Sunday of Lent (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.)

Can You Help Hang a Banner? Arrange Flowers? Carry a Ladder?

If your answer is “yes,” the Sacred Space Team welcomes—and needs—you! They’re the great group who arrange the Sanctuary. They welcome your help either monthly or seasonally. Let them know you’d like to help! (Donna Clark, 505-490-9840; Christy Jones, 505-204-6867; Cindy Knox, 620-966-1822)

Extend United’s Welcome as Greeters or Ushers

Come at 9:30 for the 10:00 service and be the first in line to welcome people to United. It’s simple—and it’s central to who we want to be as a church community. Sign up on Sunday morning or contact Membership Development Chair Diane Darby (816-260-0127). 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 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. (In 2024, 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.)

