A Service of the Word
for
The Fourth Sunday of Eastertide

April 30, 2023

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

For Reflection

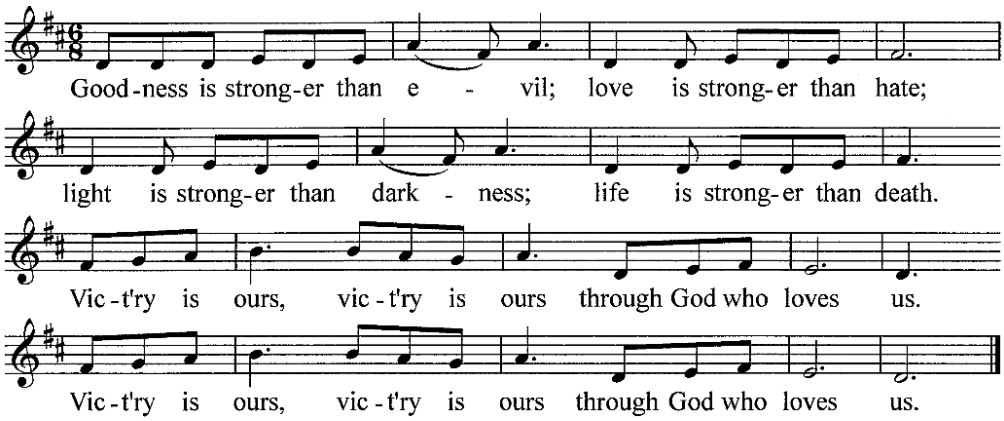
Unfortunately, in our time, faith in Jesus has been recast as a position in a debate, not a way of life.

Rachel Held Evans, *Wholehearted Faith*

WE GATHER

Gathering Music/Prelude — *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us* — William Bradbury
The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want — Jessie Irvine

*Introit — ***Goodness Is Stronger than Evil*** (2x) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu/John Bell
**Please rise in body or spirit.*



Tune: © 1996, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: Original text by Tutu;
adapt. by Bell; © Desmond Tutu. Used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-711427

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing God's Good News

Christ is Risen ! Risen indeed! — ***Christós anésti. Alithós anésti!*** — ***Beauty is restored! Restored indeed!***

Regathering — ***Goodness Is Stronger than Evil*** (1x)

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship — *My Shepherd Shall Provide My Need* — Isaac Watts

The Call to Worship **(cong. bold)**

As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,
so God seeks and saves the lost.
Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,
so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.
As a father welcomes a returning wayward son,
so God welcomes us, and lets the past be past.
Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received.
Let us receive, welcome, and give thanks for one another
and for the One who gives us life together.

*Hymn 28 ***For the Beauty of the Earth*** (1-3) Folliott S. Pierpoint/Dix

A Prayer of Trust and Thanksgiving from the Psalms

You are my shepherd; I have everything I need.
You make me lie down in green pastures;
You lead me beside the still waters;
You restore my soul.
You lead me in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

A Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of God's Grace

*Our Song of Praise ***For the Beauty of the Earth*** Miriam Therese Winter/Dix

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

WE ENGAGE

The Good Shepherd John 10:1-10

"Very truly, I tell you," said *Jesús, "*anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief *y un bandido* (a bandit). The one who enters by the gate is *el pastor* (the shepherd) of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for *el pastor, y las ovejas* (the sheep) hear his voice. He calls his own *ovejas* by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and *las ovejas* follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." *Jesús* used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again *Jesús* said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate *para las ovejas*. All who came before me are thieves *y bandidos*; but *las ovejas* did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have *vida* (life), and have it abundantly."

Hymn 252 ***Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*** (English verses) William Bradbury

Sermon *What Voice Do We Hear?*

Silent Reflection

Musical Response *God Is My Shepherd* Brother James Air

WE RESPOND

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God of our lives and all life,
in this time of prayer, open us even more deeply to your presence.

Good Shepherd God, we thank you for leading us to this time together,
We thank you for making us rest in your Word
and refreshing our lives with your Spirit.
And we thank you for all the ways you have guided us, protected us,
shepherded us even in this past week.
Hear our prayers of thanks.

(silent prayer)

We thank you, too, for the Good Shepherds
who have appeared in our lives in so many different ways
and who have given of their lives to give us new life.
We lift their names to you. Hear our prayers of thanks.

(silent prayer)

Shepherd of All, we confess that we often feel like your other creatures—
afraid, uncertain, confused.
We pray for ourselves and others:
Deliver us and this world from the pandemic of violence and war.
Deliver us from indifference and hatred.
Guide us in the right direction.
Strengthen our faith in you and our love for your people.
Hear our prayers for your presence.

(silent prayer)

We pray, too, that you would open our eyes and hearts to those who suffer around us—
To our sisters and brothers who go to bed hungry or who have no beds,
To refugees and immigrants separated from their families,
To those who are unemployed
and those whose work is difficult and dangerous.

Give us the courage and commitment to be the Good Shepherds you call us to be,
To love this world and your people as you so love.
Hear our prayers for that courage and commitment.

(silent prayer)

We pray all this in the name of the One we know as the Good Shepherd, who showed us your love for all people, for all creation, who laid down his life for others, and who taught us to pray with boldness, courage, and trust, saying . . . *(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.)*

*Hymn	247	***My Shepherd Is the Living God*** (1-2)	Isaac Watts/Consolation
*Benediction			
*Musical Benediction	247	***My Shepherd Is the Living God*** (3)	Isaac Watts/Consolation

****

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. Your presence enriches the experience of us all. We also invite you to join in our education and service offerings, today and in the week ahead. Again, welcome!

We welcome Rev. Benjamin Larzelere as our guest preacher this morning. Ben is a retired Lutheran Pastor, who served Santa Fe's Christ Luther Church for almost 40 years. He and his wife, Bev, have both been leaders in the wider Santa Fe community through their commitment to Jesus' way of justice and love. They both joined United this past March.

We also welcome Fred Frahm as Guest Choral Conductor. He is the former Choral Director and Organist at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Albuquerque (which was Ben Larzelere's first call after ordination). We appreciate his substituting for Brad Ellingboe whose choral work, "A Place Called Home," premiered last night at Carnegie Hall. (United members Larry Rasmussen and Jody and Peter Spalding were part of the choir. Nyla Rasmussen, Betsy Rogers, and Talitha Arnold were all in the audience :-). Talitha returns to Santa Fe tomorrow morning.

Also sharing leadership are Jessie Lo, Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; Eloise and William Benham, and George Duncan Liturgists; Media Specialist Elijah Marquez, and Media Volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, Louise Cavatta, and Ushers Diane Bethune and Tom Stewart.

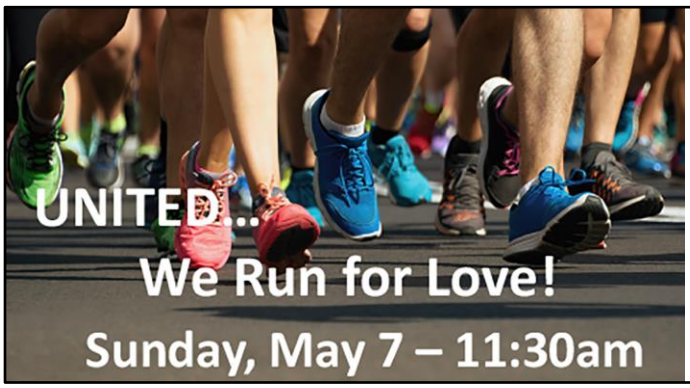
In Children's Ministry, our young ones learn to "Love God, Neighbor and Creation" as they make paper flowers for the congregation, with Gail Ansheles, Karen Wilbanks, Caleb Omolo, and Maria Navarette, and continue learning "Jesus Loves Me" in ASL, Taiwanese, Spanish, and Swahili for worship May 14. After worship, our high school youth invite your sponsorship for *United We Run* (next Sunday!).

***Figuring Your/Our Carbon Footprint* – Adult Forum (11:15 am)**

We welcome Jim Norton, a lifelong environmentalist, who worked for three decades for The Wilderness Society, Nature Conservancy, and other environmental groups, and was the Director of the Environmental Protection Division for the state of New Mexico. Retired now, he volunteers to help people measure and reduce their carbon footprint.

Wednesday Women's Study Group – May 3 (10:00 am)
All women invited to join in a lively discussion of Christopher McDougall's *Running with Sherman*. Wednesday, May 17 we'll have a party outside and pick our books for the next year. All welcome! (Barbara MacPhee, macphee.b@gmail.com)

***Living into New Life* – Thursdays at 8:00 am (via Zoom)**
Explore next Sunday's scriptures with others from across the country. Sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.



Benefits Santa Fe Watershed, BookKids, and Refugees/Immigrants
Spread the word about United's annual 5k fun-run/walk (1k for children, 3K walk for other adults) after the 10:00 service, to raise money for BookKids, United's Immigrant and Refugee Fund, and the Santa Fe Watershed Association. The run/walk (on sidewalks, side roads, and trails) begins and ends at United. We'll have breakfast burritos (and coffee) so runners and non-runners can share an outdoor meal together. Registration and pledge forms at church or online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org/run.

COMING UP . . .

Pretty Good Guys – Wednesdays, May 10 and 24 (10:30 am)
Join with other United men as they engage the book, "Bad Boys of the Bible," brief reflections on various Biblical men and what we might learn from their stories. These sessions focus on Adam, Cain, and Abraham. Books ($15) available in Community Room. (Ken Bordner, ken.bordner2@gmail.com, 585-734-4548)

LOVE CREATION

United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change
Track car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and *Tree New Mexico.* Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/post/unitedscarbonoffsetprogram.

Compost Collection for Creation!
In partnership with Reunity Resources, the church has a green compost bin for your compostable products (food waste, compostable containers, etc.) Pick up compostable garbage bags in the Community Room and bring your compost material when you come to church 😊. (**NO** standard plastic bags, please). Info: reunityresources.com.

***Quickening* – Eastertide Devotional**
"Quickening" means moving from no-life to life. It doesn't happen to the fast and the hustling. It happens to the waiting and the nurtured. And while moving fast is sometimes the result of quickening, it's never the cause. *Quickening* is an Eastertide devotional of daily readings and prayers to prepare you for your own quickening. Not by making you grind harder to stay alive. Not by asking you to do more, more quickly. Not by requiring you to be quick on the draw, but by giving you a chance to be cut to the quick by grace. The daily reflections were written by clergy of diverse backgrounds and communities (including Talitha Arnold) who are serving in many different settings. Pick up a copy in the Community Room.

"Founded in Faith, Building the Future"
United Church Endowment Initiative

Many thanks to all members and friends who completed the Congregational Survey, participated in worship with guest Jerry Henry in a dialogue with Talitha, and/or stayed for the Adult Forum to learn about the survey results and share thoughts about United's future. It was a great turnout with lots of good energy and hope.

As one person affirmed, United's Endowment Initiative "will help us grow from strength to strength" by laying a solid financial foundation for the future. We know that with Santa Fe's cost of living, the need for additional staff, and other expenses, that future has some financial challenges. But as Endowment Chair Frank Wilbanks reminded us, we as United's current generation benefit from the commitment of generations before us. Now it's our turn to build the foundation for the future.

There are many ways to support the Endowment Initiative, from cash gifts to planned giving (e.g., putting United in your will, designating the church as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, establishing a charitable remainder trust, etc.). In the coming weeks, the Endowment Initiative Steering Committee will share information about those opportunities, as well as listen to your ideas and hopes for United.

If you have questions about the Initiative or would like more information, please let us know. That "us" includes Frank Wilbanks, Sarah Sawtell, Bob Ansheles, Sam Elkind, Caroline Burnett, Trudy Swint, Ed Barker, Joe Jones, and Pastor Talitha Arnold. And please keep the Endowment Initiative and the United Church in your prayers!