

**A Service of Psalms, Prayers, and Poems  
for  
ST. FRANCIS SUNDAY!  
October 2, 2022**  
The United (even apart) Church of Santa Fe  
A United Church of Christ

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**WE GATHER**

Introit *The Swan from Carnival of the Animals* Camille Saint-Saëns

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Musical Call to Worship *Circle of Life* (2x) Marty Haugen

*One great circle of life, living circle of love,  
Plants and seas, trees and rivers and the blessed sky above.  
Creatures great, creatures small, one the web that weaves us all in the circle of life.*

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The Call to Worship based on St. Francis' *Cantico delle creature* (Canticle of the Creatures) (**congregation bold**)

All praise be Yours, O Lord, through Brother Sun,  
**all praise be Yours through Sister Moon.**  
By Mother Earth my Lord be praised, by Brother Mountain, Sister Sea,  
**through Brother Wind and Sister Air, through Brother Fire, Sister Water.**  
The Stars above give thanks to thee.  
**All praise to those who live in peace.**  
All praise be yours through Brother Wolf, Sister Whale, Uncle Platypus, Aunt Sea Slug.  
Let creatures all give thanks to thee,  
**all praise to those who live in peace.**  
Let all creation sing to our Creator!

Song *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing* Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, everything sings your praises, alleluia!  
Your burning sun with golden beam, your silver moon with softer gleam  
Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Your wind that blows the tempest by, your clouds that sail across the sky sing your praises, alleluia!  
Your morning rises with a song, and lights of evening sing along,  
Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Your flowing waters, crystal clear, make melodies for you to hear, sing your praises, alleluia!  
Your fire, . . . bountiful and bright, remembering your warmth and light,  
Sings your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

**WE PREPARE**

A Prayer of Invocation and Confession from the Ute Sacred Tradition

Earth teach us stillness, **as the grasses are stilled with light.**  
Earth teach us suffering, **as old stones suffer with memory.**  
Earth teach us humility, **as blossoms are humble with beginning.**  
Earth teach us caring, **as the mother secures her young.**  
Earth teach us courage, **as the tree which stands all alone.**  
Earth teach us limitation, **as the ant which crawls on the ground.**  
Earth teach us freedom, **as the eagle which soars in the sky.**  
Earth teach us resignation, **as the leaves which die in the fall.**  
Earth teach us regeneration, **as the seed which rises in the spring.**  
Earth teach us to forget ourselves, **as melted snow forgets its life.**  
Earth teach us to remember kindness, **as dry fields weep with rain. Amen.**

A Time of Silent Prayer

*To you, O God, day after day, your planet earth in every way, sings your praises, alleluia,  
As savory fruit and fragrant flower show forth your glory and your power,  
Singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

**WE ENGAGE**

*A Desert Faith for a Desert Time*

A Psalm and Poems of Creation

Psalm 104:1-4

Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
O Lord my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
wrapped in light as with a garment.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent,  
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,  
you make the clouds your chariot,  
you ride on the wings of the wind,  
you make the winds your messengers,  
fire and flame your ministers. . .

*Silence*

*Lesson 1*  
Pat Mora

*The desert is powerless  
when thunder shakes the hot air  
and unfamiliar raindrops slide  
on rocks, sand, mesquite,  
when unfamiliar raindrops overwhelm  
her, distort her face.  
But after the storm, she breathes deeply,  
caressed by a fresh sweet calm.  
My Mother smiles rainbows.*

*When I feel shaken, powerless  
to stop my bruising sadness,  
I hear My Mother whisper:*

*Mi'ja*

*Don't fear your hot tears  
cry away the storm, then listen, listen.*

Psalm 104:10-13

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills,  
giving drink to every wild animal;  
the wild asses quench their thirst.  
By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;  
they sing among the branches.  
From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. . .

*The Summer Day*  
Mary Oliver

*Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean –  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down –  
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?*

Musical Response

***Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom***

Holy Manna

***Earth is full of wit and wisdom, sounding God's delighted laugh,  
From the tiny roly-poly to the treetop-tall giraffe.  
All creation sings in wonder; even rocks and trees rejoice  
As they join the ringing chorus: echoes of our Maker's voice.***

***Earth is full of wit and wisdom, woven into harmony.  
Every creature has a purpose, every flower and bumble bee.  
Spider, human, redwood, gecko, monkey, chicken, mouse and snake,  
Live within a single fabric: cloth that only God could make.***

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Psalm 104:24-26, 35

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.  
There go the ships,  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. . .  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
Praise the Lord!

*Whale Day*  
Billy Collins

“Today I was awakened by strong coffee  
and the awareness that the earth is busy with whales  
even though we can't see any  
unless we have embarked on a whale watch,  
which would be disappointing if we still couldn't see any.

I can see the steam rising from my tallow cup,  
the usual furniture scattered about,  
and even some early light filtering through the palms.

Meanwhile, thousands of whales are cruising along  
at various speeds under the seas,  
crisscrossing one another,  
slaloming in and out of the Gulf Stream,  
some with their calves traveling alongside—  
such big blunt heads they have!

So is it too much to ask that one day a year be set aside  
for keeping in mind while we step onto a bus,  
consume a ham sandwich,  
or stoop to pick up a coin from a sidewalk,  
the multitude of these mammoth creatures  
coasting between the continents,  
some for the fun of it,  
others purposeful in their journeys,  
all concealed under the sea,  
unless somewhere one breaks the surface with astonishing upheaval of water  
and all the people in yellow slickers  
rush to one side of the boat to point  
and shout and wonder how to tell their friends  
about the day they saw a whale?"

Musical Response

*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*

Roeder

*God of the sparrow*  
*God of the whale*  
*God of the swirling stars*  
*How does the creature say Awe*  
*How does the creature say Praise*

*God of the hungry*  
*God of the sick*  
*God of the prodigal*  
*How does the creature say Care*  
*How does the creature say Life*

*God of the earthquake*  
*God of the storm*  
*God of the trumpet blast*  
*How does the creature cry Woe*  
*How does the creature cry Save*

*God of the ages*  
*God near at hand*  
*God of the loving heart*  
*How do your children say Joy*  
*How do your children say Home*

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The Pastoral Prayer (based on a prayer by Buddhist Monk Ticht Naht Hanh), followed by the Lord's Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.  
You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land.  
You inspired Francis and Clare to call all creatures their brothers and sisters.  
May we learn from them and your other psalmists, prophets and poets  
how to live in harmony with all your creation.

As you gather us, even apart, for prayer,  
help us to be truly with each other and with this world that you love.

Help us be aware of you, as the source of all being  
that is common to us and to all living things.

*Silence*

As we evoke your presence as the Great Compassion,  
help us fill our hearts with our own compassion—  
towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

We pray that all living things begin to realize  
that they are all brothers and sisters,  
all nourished from the same source of life.

We pray that we ourselves  
cease to be the cause of suffering to each other.  
Help us plead with ourselves  
to live in a way that does not deprive other living beings  
of air, water, food, shelter, or the chance to live.

*Silence*

With humility,  
with awareness of the existence of life,  
and of the sufferings that are going on around us,  
we pray for the establishment of peace,  
peace in our hearts and on earth and with all living things.

*Silence*

We pray in the name of the One who looked to the birds of the air  
and the grass of the field to show us your love and care,  
and who taught us to pray to you with boldness, courage, and trust, saying:

*(Please prayer any version of the Lord's prayer.)*

Closing Hymn *Touch the Earth Lightly* Shirley Erena Murray/Tenderness

*Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care:  
Gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear.*

*Let there be greening, birth from the burning, water that blesses, and air that is sweet,  
Health in God's garden, hope in God's children, regeneration that peace will complete.*

*God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,  
Teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us, using us gently, and making us one.*

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Benediction

Musical Benediction *Touch the Earth Lightly* Tenderness

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**THANK YOU FOR JOINING IN WORSHIP  
AND WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN WITH UNITED IN THESE WAYS, TOO!**

**COMING UP THIS WEEK . . .**

**LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR!**

**Wednesday Women's Study Group (10:00 am)**

All women are invited to a discussion of *The Four Vision Quests of Jesus*, by Choctaw Elder and Episcopal Bishop Steven Charleston, led by Talitha Arnold

***Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls*  
Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MDT) on Zoom**

Exercise your mind and your soul every Thursday morning by exploring the scripture stories for the upcoming Sunday. Join in to deepen your faith and share the journey. All welcome!

Go online to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org) or send a check to 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

**Hurricane Relief for Puerto Rico, Florida, and**  
Church World Service is United's "go-to" organization for disaster relief. Please donate! Memo: "Hurricane Relief." Thank you!

**Shelter Dinners for Persons Who Are Homeless**  
We contract with "Felipe's Tacos" to provide 50 meals each week for the Interfaith Shelter (and 35 monthly suppers for Casa Familia and St. Elizabeth). Memo: "Shelter Dinner."

**LOVE GOD, LOVE CREATION!**

**Compost Collection**

Bring your compostable products to deposit anytime (easy access from church parking lot) in the green bin. Questions about what goes in the bin? Call Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700) or go to [reunityresources.com](http://reunityresources.com). Thanks!

**United's Carbon Offset Program**

Track your mileage and donate to United's Carbon Offset Program for *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and *Tree New Mexico*, both addressing climate change. More info at [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org).

**NAVAJO (DINÉ) NATION**

United Church has a long-standing relationship with the Navajo/Diné Nation. Your financial support for relief work (food and cleaning supplies) and mask donations make a difference! Memo: "Diné."

**IN THE WINGS**

***Eco-Anxiety: What Is It? How to Deal with It?*  
Wednesdays (Oct. 19 & 26/Nov. 2 & 9)  
7:00 to 8:00 pm**

Climate change and the resulting fires, hurricanes and flooding have become leading causes of anxiety for many people, particularly younger adults and youth. Psychiatrists Joe Neidhardt and Mary Hasbah Roessel share information and resources (meditation techniques, relaxation training, etc.) in a multiweek series. Please register at [unitedchuchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchuchsf@gmail.com).