

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**July 19, 2026**  
**10:00 A.M.**

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

**For Reflection**

We could not become like God, so God became like us.  
God showed us how to heal instead of kill, how to mend instead of destroy,  
how to love instead of hate, how to live instead of long for more.  
When we nailed God to a tree, God forgave.  
And when we buried God in the ground, God got up.

Rachel Held Evans

**WE GATHER**

*(May the first note of the Gathering Music be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship.  
Also, please turn off your cell phone upon entering the Sanctuary.)*

Gathering Music *Nocturne in G Minor, Op. 15, No. 3* Frédéric Chopin

\*Introit *Circle of Life* (2x) Marty Haugen

*One great circle of life, living circle of love, plants and trees, seas 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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Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Spirit of Peace, Hope, and Love

Sharing God's Spirit **May the Spirit be with you!**

\*Regathering and Welcoming Visitors *Circle of Life* (1x) Marty Haugen

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Light* Ralph Vaughn Williams

The Call to Worship (congregation in 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 the 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 4 *Joyful, Joyful* (vss. 1-2, 4) Henry van Dyke/Ode to Joy

**WE PREPARE**

A Prayer of Invocation (from Psalm 139)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

**You search out my path and my lying down,**

**and are acquainted with all my ways.**

**Even before a word is on my tongue,**

**O Lord, you know it completely.**

Where can I go from your spirit?  
 Or where can I flee from your presence?  
 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
 if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

**If I take the wings of the morning  
 and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
 even there your hand shall lead me,  
 and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

If I say, "Surely the shadows shall cover me,  
 and the light around me become night,"  
 even the shadows are not dark to you;  
 the night is as bright as the day,  
 for shadows are as light to you.

**Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
 test me and know my thoughts.  
 See if there is any harmful way in me,  
 and lead me in the way everlasting.**

In a Time of Silent Prayer and Assurance of Grace

\*In Song

*Santo, Santo, Santo*

Argentina



¡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  
 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.

*(During the song, children in grades K-5 are invited forward for a blessing then go to Kids United with Dana Bender for music, prayer, and stories. Nursery care is also available throughout the service in the Nurture Center.)*

Blessing of the Children

## WE ENGAGE

A Vision in the Desert

Genesis 28:10-19

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of

the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Hymn 472

*Precious Lord* (1-2)

Thomas A. Dorsey

Sermon

*Surely God was in this place  
 (but I did not know it)*

Silence

Musical Response 472

*Precious Lord* (v. 3)

Thomas A. Dorsey

## WE RESPOND

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (*Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.*)

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*Silent Noon*

Ralph Vaughan Williams/poem by Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Prayer of Dedication

## WE GO OUT IN PEACE

\*Hymn 18

*Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*

William Williams/Cwm Rhondda

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

*Kyrie Eleison*

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

*Kyrie eleison.*

*Christe eleison.*

*Kyrie eleison.*

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

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Jacquelyn Helin, Guest Pianist (and former Music Director); Dana Bender, Family Minister; Rev. Jeff Hopson, Liturgist. You were greeted by Ministers of Hospitality Rosemary Thompson, Beth and Frank Cionek, Pam Hyde, and Karen Wilbanks; and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeaut. Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez livestreams the service with audio volunteer Frank Wilbanks.

We also welcome Kyle White, Baritone, returning for his second summer as a Santa Fe Opera Apprentice who performs roles from both modern and standard repertoire. His recent and upcoming engagements include *La bohème* with Madison Opera, *The Cook-Off* with Dayton Opera, *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Turandot* with The Atlanta Opera. With the SF Opera, he sings Yakuside in *Madama Butterfly* and Eric Allatini in the American Premier of Tobias Picker's *Lili Elbe*. He's also returning to Austin Opera to sing Gary in the world premiere of Jorge Sosa & John de los Santos' *Ofrenda*. Please take time after the service to offer your thanks and blessing!

## Kids United – Singing through the Summer!

Each week, children of all ages join Family Ministry Director Dana Bender as we sing our way through the summer—exploring prayer and our love for God, Neighbor, and Creation through music (and also tending the Children's Garden). Nurture Center care for infants through Pre-k's offered by Tracy Church and Maria Navarette.

## Keeping the Faith, Painting the Faith, Sewing the Faith: The Sacred Arts of Spanish New Mexico Today's Forum (11:15 am)

On this Sunday before Spanish Traditional Market, we welcome two renowned artists from Northern New Mexico, whose work is also part of United's sacred art collection. Julia Gomez is a "colcha" (embroidery) creator whose work has been displayed at the Smithsonian and who uses both handspun yarn and bear, bobcat, and wolf fur in her creations. Juanito Jimenez is an award-winning santero (painter) who also uses natural dyes and wood for his paintings of both traditional and contemporary saints and sacred stories. We are honored to have both artists as our guests!

## A World without Nuclear Weapons – Today, July 19 (2:30 pm – doors open at 2:00 pm) St. Michael's High School

This afternoon, local faith leaders, nuclear disarmament advocates, environmental organizations, and community members gather to commemorate the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Trinity Test, the world's first atomic bomb detonation, which took place in New Mexico on July 16, 1945. The interfaith vigil calls for nuclear disarmament and renewed action toward peace and environmental justice. Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, leads the commemoration. Participants will hear how they can promote nuclear disarmament, with a special emphasis on youth and the future. **Registration and livestream information:** [bit.ly/2026-Trinity](http://bit.ly/2026-Trinity).

## What Does the Bible Really Say about Forgiveness? – Zoom Study Group Thursdays: 8:00 – 9:00 am (MDT)

Join people from around the country for an in-depth look at what the Bible says about the challenging (and often confusing) topic of "forgiveness." All welcome! To register, email [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

### **Adult Forum – Next Sunday, July 26 — *Christian and American: What Does It Mean?***

A panel of United members and friends share their understandings of the dual identity as both Americans and Christians. Join this important conversation in this time of both words being defined in certain ways—and take time to consider what either mean for you.

### **Praying in the Dirt and Feeding Hungry Families**

All produce from the Children’s Garden goes to the Santa Fe Food Depot to provide nutritious food to people throughout Northern New Mexico. You can help United kids feed other kids (and their parents) by volunteering to take a week of watering, weeding, or harvesting this summer. Sign up in Community Room or contact Dana Bender (602-570-9709).

### **Weekly Food Drive for The Food Depot**

To help Santa Fe children in the final days of school and heading into the summer, we invite your donations of non-perishable food for the Food Depot. Every public school has their own “Food Pantry” that parents, youth, and children can use for weekends and summertime when school isn’t in session.

### ***Opera Singers, Drop-in Choir, and Lots More Musically This Summer at United***

- We finish out July on the 26<sup>th</sup> (Spanish Market Sunday) with **Opera Apprentice** Matthew Juhlin, baritone.
- And in early August:
  - Choral Scholars Javier Ortiz helps lead worship on August 2 and Heather Lacy on August 23.
  - The **Drop-In Choir** is Sunday, August 9 (all singers welcome to come at 9:00 to rehearse and offer an anthem in the 10:00 service)
  - On **August 16**, we welcome back **Lavonne Yazzie**, Navajo/Diné singer and Cantor for Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Albuquerque.

**Mark your calendars and bring friends!**

### ***What Is Christian Nationalism (and Why Should We Care)?***

Tune into a podcast from *Indivisible Santa Fe Radio* (on Spotify, Amazon Music, etc.) for Rev. Gary Kowalski’s interview of Rev. Talitha Arnold on “The Rise of Christian Nationalism: What Is It and Why Should We Care?”

### **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 the *Santa Fe Watershed Association* for their environmental advocacy and hands-on care for God’s good earth and generations yet to come. (\$8/100 miles driven; \$8/3 hours in the air). Info: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care](https://unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care).

### **Compost Collection – It’s a Miracle!**

**(And it helps mitigate climate change.)**

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Two ways you can help:

1. Please use the compost containers in the Community Room and education rooms for your coffee cups, napkins, or plates from the Fellowship Time or church meals. All those paper goods are compostable.
2. Get compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill 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.

### **Many Thanks for Your Ongoing Pledges and Financial Support!**

A summer “Arts Camp” for children. Opera Apprentices in worship. Maintenance of the beautiful church grounds. Livestreaming. Ongoing pastoral care—and care for the wider community and world. Your pledges and other donations to United Church continue to make a difference in the lives of United’s members and friends. Thank you!

### **Cybersecurity Tips for Emails and Texts**

Churches and church members aren’t immune to scams, hacks, and phishing. Some ways to reduce the risk:

- Church staff will never write you directly for your credit card information or ask you to purchase a gift card. If the email address does not begin with “unitedchurch,” it is a scam. For texts, check the phone number. Either way, call the person it claims to be.
- A new scam from hacked email addresses are bogus “invitations” to parties, celebrations, etc. that ask you to click on the invitation. That then leads you to give personal information (passwords, Social Security #, etc.) which makes your accounts vulnerable to hacks and theft. Call the person directly to see if it’s legit. If it’s not, report it as a scam or a hack.
- Once confirmed that the email or text is a scam, please report it as phishing to your email provider or report a phishing text by texting 7726.

When in doubt, don’t open the text or email—contact the person it claims to be from directly.