A Service of the (Virtual) Word and Sacrament  
July 3, 2022  
The United (even apart) Church of Santa Fe  
A United Church of Christ

A Note of Preparation  
We share communion via video during the service. In preparation, before turning on the video, please find something you can use for bread (e.g., crackers, breadsticks, etc.) and something to drink (water, juice, even wine) in a cup.

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For Reflection:  
I’ve never felt your ministry should be totally devoted to making a heavenly home.  
I thought it should also be devoted to making your home here heavenly.  

Rev. Joseph E. Lowery (1922 – 2020)  
Co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Gathering Music  
*Gather Us In*  
*Marty Haugen*  
*Down to the River to Pray*  
*Traditional*

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God’s Gifts

Introit  
*Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works*  
*Lacquiparle*

Calling on Those Who Have Gone before Us (from a prayer by Choctaw Elder/Episcopal Bishop Steve Bishop)  
Come near now, saints of every tribe and clan, come closer, drawn by the flame of our prayers, called by the hearts of your family still here on Earth.

You know how much we need you.  
You know how much these coming days mean to us.  
Come down from all four sacred directions, elders of every nation, come walking on the air, with your shining faces set toward the shadows, casting hope with every glance, reminding us of your presence, showing us the power of what we pray.

Come near to us, you host of goodness and mercy, surround us with your love, and hold us up as we walk the blessing way, the path the Spirit has set before us, the tomorrow that waits for us to discover.

Lift us up to ride your wings, that we may raise the banner of light, inviting all of your relatives to sing the hymn of hope, to begin a new dance that will not end, to be like you: unafraid and forever believing.

Hymn  
*God of Grace and God of Glory*  
*Harry Emerson Fosdick/Cwm Rhondda*

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;  
Crown thine ancient church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior’s ways,  
From the fears that long have bound us—free our hearts for faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

A Prayer of Invocation from the Tewa Tradition  
O our Mother the earth, O our Father the sky:  
*Your children are we and we bring you our lives.*  
Then weave for us a garment of brightness.

May the warp be the white light of morning, may the weft be the red light of evening.  
May the fringes be the falling rain, may the border be the standing rainbow.  
Thus weave for us a garment of brightness
That we may walk fittingly where birds sing,
That we may walk fittingly where the grass is green.
O our Mother the earth, O our Father the sky.

A Time of Silence

Words of Assurance

Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

Harry Emerson Fosdick/Cwm Rhondda

Cure thy children’s warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal, lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal.
Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

What Does the Bible Really Say About . . . Freedom?

From the Letter of Paul to the United Church of Galatia

Galatians 5:1, 13-14

Por la libertad (For freedom) Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke de esclavitud (of slavery)... For you were called to la libertad, brothers and sisters; only do not use tu libertad (your freedom) as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but a través del amor (through love) become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor como a ti mismo (as yourself).”

Reflection

Bound to Be Free

Silent Reflection

Song

Pues si vivimos (In All Our Living)

Mexican Folk Hymn

In all our living, we belong to God; and in our dying, we are still with God;
So whether living, or whether dying, we belong to God; we belong to God.

Pues si vivimos, para Dios vivimos y si morimos, para Dios morimos.
Sea que vivamos o que muramos, somos del buen Dios, somos del buen Dios.

Pues si vivimos, para Dios vivimos y si morimos, para Dios morimos.
Sea que vivamos o que muramos, somos del buen Dios, somos del buen Dios.


Sharing of Communion

The Story of This Feast

The Invitation

Esta mesa (This table) is open to all who seek to know el amor de Dios (God’s love) and to follow in Christ’s way de esperanza y justicia (of hope and justice).

We come a esta mesa (to this table) to receive pan (bread) for our journey and la copa (the cup) of mercy.

We share in this communion that we might have courage in the struggle por la justicia y la paz (for justice and peace).

Llegamos a la mesa (We come to this table), not because we must, but because we may.

Llegamos (We come) not because we are fulfilled, but because we stand in need of God’s mercy and assurance.

Llegamos not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence.

Let us come to this table, mis hermanos y hermanas (my brothers and sisters), as we are. This meal is offered for you and me that we might again know that Dios has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling all creation al Creador (to the Creator). May este pan strengthen us for the journey and esta copa quench our thirst for God’s justice.
Prayer of Blessing

*Dios de gracia y gloria* (God of grace and glory),
as we gather for your feast, help us remember Jesus’ call to each of us:
“You ought always to pray and not faint.”

Help us not to pray for easy lives:
but pray to be stronger *mujeres y hombres* (women and men).

Help us not to pray for tasks equal to our powers,
but *para la potencia* (for power) equal to our tasks and your work.

So we pray, that through this meal, restore our trust in you.
Through this meal, restore *nuestra esperanza* (our hope) in you.
Through this meal, restore *nuestra fe* (our faith) in you.
Through this meal, strengthen our souls in you.

May *este pan* (this bread) be blessed by you.
May *esta copa* (this cup) be blessed by you.
May all who share *se bendecido por ti* (be blessed by you).
May all this nation and *todo el mundo* (all the world) be blessed by you.

So that the doing of your work in our world will be no miracle—
but our openness to you y *tu poder* (and your power) will be *el milagro* (the miracle).
And every day we will wonder at ourselves and the richness of life
that has come to us by your *gracia y gloria* (grace and glory).

We pray in the name of One who strengthens our souls, reminds us of your blessing, and calls us to be *un pueblo* (one people) in praying to you with boldness, courage, and trust saying, . . .

*(Please pray a version of the Lord’s prayer familiar to you.)*

Sharing of the Bread

**As We Gather at Your Table**

*As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,*
*Helps us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.*
*Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;*
*Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love’s victory known.*

*Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;*
*Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.*
*Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;*
*May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.*

*Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast*
*Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.*
*There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,*
*As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.*

Sharing the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Life-giving God, we give you thanks for the gifts of this table—the bread, the cup, the presence of Christ and communion with you. Through these gifts, you empower us to be the new community of love, hope and justice. Give us the courage and commitment to live up to that calling. We pray for the sake of this country and this world. Amen.

Closing Hymn

*America the Beautiful*

*(sung by Willie Nelson, with an ensemble that included Stevie Wonder, Robin Williams, Whitney Houston, Reba McEntire, Muhammed Ali, and others—September 21, 2001)*

*O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,*
*For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!*
*America! America! God shed his grace on thee,*
*And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.*
O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

Benediction

Musical Benediction

Walk Together Children
Robert Lah Trio with Bradley Ellingboe, Soloist

African American

WELCOME TO THE UNITED (even apart) CHURCH!

We’re glad you’ve joined us for worship this morning and invite you to join in other ministries and programs of the church. Please go to our website (unitedchurchofsantafe.org) for more information. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Rev. Ben Larzelere, Liturgist; Louise Cavatta, Scripture Reader; and Media Technician Elijah Marquez. The music is offered by multiple people including Director of Music Bradley Ellingboe, United’s Choral Scholars, the Corbin Family Steel Drums and Marimba ensemble; and the Robert Lah Trio.

Resiliency and Hope: What Does the Bible Really Say About . . . All Kinds of Things?
Thursdays at 8:00 am – Zoom (please register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)
Join in the exploration of the scriptures for the upcoming Sundays and help inform the sermon 😊.
All welcome!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH
(Youth Minister Kate Murphy: unitedchurch.kate@gmail.com)

JULY LIVE! 2022
(Thursdays 5:30 to 7:00 pm)

United’s weekly outdoor evening program includes a simple supper and a lot of fun:

July 7 – Make a River!  July 14 – Scavenger Hunt  July 21 – Bubbles, Bubbles, Bubbles

Come each week or just when you’re in town. Grandchildren and friends always welcome!

Middle and High School Youth – Thursdays at United (7:15 to 8:30)
Encourage your kids to join with other United Youth—and friends—for summer fun!
Led by Kate Murphy and volunteers, they’ll play ice breaker games, then enjoy:

July 7 – Movie Night with Popcorn & Popsicles  July 14 – Scavenger Hunt (and the final clue is ice cream)

Lightning Boy Hoop Dancers
At United – Friday, July 29 (7:00 pm) – For All Ages!
The Lightning Boy Hoop Dancers offer a special presentation at United on Friday evening, July 29 at 7:00 pm. All welcome to the event that features tribal youth from northern New Mexico. The Hoop Dance is known as a healing art form, with its origins in the Pueblos of Northern New Mexico. Bring a lawn chair, a friend, and enjoy this unique New Mexico offering!
You can also pack a picnic supper and come early. It will help if you sign up, too :-). (unitedchurchofsantafe.org)

BEFORE BIRTH CONTROL WAS LEGAL – Tuesday, July 12 (7:00 pm MDT)
Zoom Conversation with Rev. Joan Forsberg, Witness in “Griswold v. Connecticut”
In the early 1960’s, Rev. Joan Forsberg, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and graduate of Yale Divinity School, was also a wife and mother of three children. She and her husband wanted to practice family planning, but it was illegal in Connecticut either to prescribe or purchase contraception. She was asked by the Planned Parenthood Director, Estelle Griswold, to be a “witness for the prosecution” that resulted in the landmark “Griswold v. Connecticut” Supreme Court case that finally made contraception legal throughout the country. On Tuesday, July 12, at 7:00 pm MDT, members and friends of United are invited to join in a zoom presentation with Joan. To register, please email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

United Church Commits to Love God, Neighbor, and Creation in a Whole Lot of Ways
From supporting our Diné/Navajo sisters and brothers to providing relief resettlement for Afghan, Central American, and Ukrainian refugees to feeding hungry people in Santa Fe and helping persons recovering from New Mexico’s devastating fires to composting waste into life-giving compost, United seeks to love our neighbors and God’s creation in all kinds of ways. Go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to find out more!