

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
for the  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 22, 2026**  
**10:00 A.M.**

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

**For Reflection**

The church offers death and resurrection. The church offers the messy, inconvenient, gut-wrenching, never-ending work of healing and reconciliation.

Rachel Held Evans, Author and Teacher (1981 – 2019)

**WE GATHER**

Gathering Music

*Allemande from French Suite in G Major*  
*Christ, the Life of All the Living*

J.S. Bach  
arr. Kristin Heckman

\*Introit

***Salaam/Peace*** (2x)  
*(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Manal Samir



Sa - laam, sa - laam, the peace of God to ev-ery race. Sa - laam, sa - laam, the peace of God in ev-ery place.

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Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing God's Gifts and Regathering in Song

***Salaam/Peace*** (2x)

Manal Samir

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Call to Lent from the Psalms

Psalm 130 (paraphrased)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.  
Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!  
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,  
and in God's word I hope;  
My soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.  
O People, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with God is great power to redeem.  
It is God who will redeem us from all our iniquities.

Choral Call to Worship

*Be Still My Soul*

Katharina von Schlegel/Finlandia

The Call to Worship from The United Church Statement of Faith (**congregation bold**)

You have called us into your church, O God,

**To accept the cost and joy of discipleship,**

To serve you in serving your human family and caring for your creation,

**To proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,**

To share in Christ's baptism and eat at Christ's table, to follow in his ways of justice and peace, and to join in his passion and victory.

**In gratitude we accept your call, praise your holy name, and testify to your loving deeds.**

Let us worship God who calls us by name and calls us to ministry.

\*Hymn 410

***If You But Trust*** (1-2)

Georg Neumark

## WE PREPARE

### \*A Prayer of Invocation and Confession

**Gracious God, we, your hopeful people, wait now before you. We would be still. We would listen for your word speaking in our hearts. Instruct, inspire, and re-form us.**

**We pray, by the moving of your Spirit, that we might worship you with gladness and follow your way with zest. Reclaim that which we have caused to go awry, rescue that which we have put out of place, forgive that which is amiss, and set us again to our ministries with passionate faith, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### \*A Time of Silent Prayer

### \*The Assurance of God's Grace

### \*Song of Praise 410

### *If You But Trust* (v.3)

Georg Neumark

*(As adults and older youth are seated, our younger ones through 5<sup>th</sup> grade go to Kids United with Family Minister Dana Bender, volunteer Tracy Church, and Children's Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.*

## WE ENGAGE

### Jesus, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus (congregation bold)

John 11:1-35

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But . . . after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the people were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them."

After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead." . . .

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the people had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "**Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.**"

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "**I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.**" Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "**Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Chosen One of God, who is coming into the world.**"

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "**The Teacher is here and is calling for you.**" And when Mary heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The people who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "**Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.**" When Jesus saw her weeping and the people who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep.

So the people said, "**See how he loved him!**" But some of them said, "**Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?**"

Hymn

32

*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* (1-2)

Carl Schalk/Roeder

Sermon

*If You Had Been Here*

Silence

Musical Response

32

*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* (4-6)

Carl Schalk/Roeder

## WE RECEIVE AND RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer (*We close with the Lord's Prayer—please pray any version.*)

Sharing Our Gifts (*Today's offering is designated for One Great Hour of Sharing.*)

Offertory

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Negro Spiritual/arr. Moses Hogan

Prayer of Dedication

## WE GO IN PEACE

\*Hymn 579

*Great God of Earth and Heaven*

Shirley Erena Murray/King's Lynn

\*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 and invite you to join in the programs of education, music, and service during Lent. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

## TODAY AT UNITED

Sharing worship leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Pianist/Director of Music; Sanctuary Choir directed by André Garcia-Nuthmann; Hannah Stephens, Soloist; Elijah Marquez, Media Director, with Audio Volunteer Bill Whitney. Liturgists to be announced. You were greeted and welcomed by Ministers of Hospitality Diane Darby, Louise Cavatta, Pam Hyde, Tom Stewart, and Rosemary Thompson; Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

### Ministry with Children

Children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade begin the service with the congregation, then go to *Kids United* to learn about and explore the story of Jesus and his friends Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, with Family Minister Dana Bender, volunteer Tracy Church, and Ministry Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz. The children are also practicing a song to share and lead the congregation in singing on Easter Sunday!

### Where's My Passport? (Don't Leave Home without It)—Today's 11:15 Forum

For many in the United community, we only need our passport if we travel out of the country. But others always carry their passports—not because they aren't citizens, but because a) their skin is a particular color or b) because their last name isn't in English or c) because they are naturalized citizens. The impact of the current government's actions and policies, especially toward persons of color, impacts our friends and neighbors in our own congregation. We hear some of their stories today.

### Youth Confirmation Initiates Meet at 11:15 Today

Today is the second to last Confirmation/Initiates gathering of the program year. After a Bible study, we'll discuss "where do we go from here?" as they plan a group service project, prepare their "Statements of Faith," and prepare for celebrations of their Journey to Adulthood and Confirmation coming up on Sunday, May 10, in the 10:00 service.

### Easter Flower Remembrances

If you'd like to honor or remember someone with the donation of a lily displayed at United Church this Easter, please fill out the form in the Community Room and leave it with your donation in the envelope or the offering plate by **today, March 22**. Suggested donation is \$20 per lily. The names will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletins.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Midweek Communion in Lent – Wednesdays (12:15 pm to 12:45 pm)

Do you yearn for silence or an opportunity to breathe, pray, replenish? Wednesday during Lent, United offers a **Lenten Noontime Communion (12:15-12:45)**. All welcome to recharge and renew (through Holy Week: April 1).

### Build a Bridge, Not a Wall Cards for Sale to Benefit United's Support for Immigrants and Refugees

United offers cards of the beautiful "Mary of the Bridge" bulo created by Northern New Mexico artists Doreen Martinez and the late Ronald Martinez. 10 cards—\$15; 5 cards—\$8. Check them out at the Community Room table.

### No Kings March – Next Saturday, March 28

Find your green United T-shirt and join with other members and friends for this important witness. Sign up in the Community Room today to let us know you're coming!

## Study Opportunities

### *What Are Biblical Values? – Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday (10:30 am)*

Through spring, the Pretty Good Guys invites all men to join in a study of “What Are Biblical Values?” by Yale professor John Collins. Books available for purchase in the Community Room. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

### *The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong Lenten Study – Wednesdays (5:30-6:45 pm)*

Karen Gonzales’ *The God Who Sees* is a short book that combines the author’s story of immigrating from Guatemala to the U.S. as a child with stories of Biblical immigrants and refugees (Ruth and Naomi, Abraham, Jesus, etc.). All welcome. Signup sheet and copies of the book in Community Room.

### *Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of John Thursdays 8:00 am (MT) on Zoom*

This Zoom study started during the pandemic. Six years later, we still need the “Resiliency and Hope” of our Biblical faith. In Lent, we’re exploring the challenging and sometimes confusing Gospel of John. All welcome! Register/Info: [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

### **Donations for Santa Fe Kids’ School Supplies**

United is a founding member of the new Santa Fe Faith Coalition for Immigration. Through March, United invites your donations for two Santa Fe organizations that support children’s education and immigrant families. Please use Community Room bins for the Public Schools’ **Adelante Program** (19-inch backpacks, 1-inch 3-ring binders, and watercolor sets) and for **Reading Quest** (new or clean and gently used stuffed animals, toys, and games). Thank you!

### **Food Depot’s “School Pantry Food Drive”**

Did you know that some Santa Fe families are afraid to go grocery shopping because of ICE? Or that many Santa Fe children have no healthy food over the weekend? The Food Depot’s “Pantry Rooms” in local schools provide individually wrapped healthy snacks (granola bars, protein bars, etc.); beef or turkey jerky; or ready-to-eat protein meals that can be microwaved (e.g., Rice-a-Roni, tuna fish kits, etc.) for kids to eat at home. You can help by stocking the bins here at United! 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 *Sf Watershed* and *NM Interfaith Power and Light*. Info: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care).

*Go out into the world in peace.  
Have courage.  
Hold onto what is good.  
Return no one evil for evil.  
Strengthen the faint-hearted.  
Support the weak. Help the suffering.  
Honor all persons. Honor all creation.  
Love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
And may the Love of God,  
the Light of Christ,  
and the power and communion  
of that Spirit  
be with us all.  
Go in peace.  
Amen.*

## *Our Love Offering to the World -- One Great Hour of Sharing*

The United Church of Santa Fe invites your support of *One Great Hour of Sharing*, the United Church of Christ offering to support refugee resettlement, disaster relief, food and small farm programs globally and in the U.S. Gifts can also be designated for specific emergencies (e.g., refugee relief, food, etc.). To donate online, go to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org), memo: OGHS or bring your offering to church. Thank you!



The pictures to the left are from Erbil in northeastern Iraq, now under siege because of its U.S. bases. One of the oldest cities in the world, Erbil is primarily Kurdish and with many Chaldean Christians. Pictured below are the tent camps near Erbil, constructed in 2016 to house refugees from Mosul and the Yazidi towns destroyed by ISIS when the region was destabilized by the U.S. war in Iraq. The pictures were taken by Rev. Talitha Arnold in 2017 during a 3-person tour sponsored by One Great Hour of Sharing (also known as Week of Compassion) to document the stories of Kurdish, Moslem, and Yazidi women and children who were the war's victims. Many of



the camps are still there ten years later.