

## VOCATION:

It comes from the Latin “vocare,” to call, and means a work a person is called to by God. There are different kinds of voices calling you to all kinds of work, and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God rather than of Society, say, or the Superego, or Self-Interest.

By and large a good rule for finding out is this: The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need most to do and (b) that the world most needs to have done. If you really get a kick out of your work, you’ve probably met requirement (a), but if your work is writing TV deodorant commercials, the chances are you’ve missed requirement (b). On the other hand, if your work is being a doctor in a leper colony, you have probably met requirement (b), but if most of the time you’re bored and depressed by it, the chances are you have not only bypassed (a) but probably aren’t helping your patients much either.

Neither the hair shirt nor the soft berth will do. The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.

*Wishful Thinking*, Frederick Buechner

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

### A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT FOR LABOR DAY SUNDAY September 6, 2026 10:00 A.M.

*God is already here.*

#### For Reflection on the Sunday before Labor Day

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime;  
therefore we must be saved by hope.

Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history;  
therefore we must be saved by faith.

Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone;  
therefore we are saved by love.

Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971, Union Seminary Professor of Social Ethics)

## WE GATHER

*(May the Prelude be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship. Please silence your cellphone and/or watch. Childcare for infants through Kindergarteners is offered in the Nurture Center. Elementary-age children are invited to stay with their parents through worship or join in the quiet activities available in the Pray-Ground (at the back of the Sanctuary) this morning! Our Kids United Sunday program resumes next Sunday. We're glad you're here!)*

Prelude

*Sicilienne for Flute and Keyboard  
Hymn Medley for Flute and Piano*

J.S. Bach  
Phoebe Knapp

\*Introit

***They That Wait upon the Lord*** (2x)  
*(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Traditional

***They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount upon wings as eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.  
Help us Lord, help us Lord, on our way.***

Welcome and Breathing in God’s Peace, Hope, and Love

Offering God’s Blessings to One Another      *Blessings for this Blessed Day!*

Regathering and Breathing in God’s Gifts Again      ***They That Wait*** (1x)

Traditional

Musical Call to Worship      *For the Beauty of the Earth*

arr. Phillip Keveren

The Call to Worship from the Gospel of Matthew (**congregation: bold**)

Jesus Christ says to us, "Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

**For his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.**

Take his yoke upon you, and learn from him.

**For his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.**

For he is gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

**For his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.**

Come, friends, let us give thanks to the One who re-creates us through the gift of rest.

\*Hymn

28

*For the Beauty of the Earth* (1-3)

Pierpoint/Dix

**WE PREPARE**

\*A Prayer for the Sabbath from the Jewish Tradition (**congregation in bold**)

Lord of all creation, You have made us the caretakers of Your world, to tend it, to serve it, and to enjoy it. For six days we measure and we build, we count and carry the real and the imagined burdens of our tasks, the success we earn and the price we pay.

**On this, the Sabbath Day, give us rest.**

For six days, if we are weary or bruised by the world, if we think ourselves giants or cause others pain, there is never a moment to pause, and know what we should really be.

**On this, the Sabbath Day, give us time.**

For six days we are torn between our private greed and the urgent needs of others, between the foolish noises in our ears and the silent prayer of our soul.

**On this, the Sabbath Day, give us understanding and peace.**

Help us, Lord,

**to carry these lessons, of rest and time, of understanding and peace, into the six days that lie ahead, to bless us in the working days of our lives. Amen.**

\*A Time of Silent Prayer

\*The Affirmation of God's Presence and Grace

\*Our Song of Praise

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

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**

Word of Introduction

Moses the Shepherd at Work

Exodus 3:1-2

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.

Mary of Nazareth at Work

Luke 1:26-28

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

Hymn

*While Moses Tended Jethro's Sheep* (v. 1-2)

Herman Stuempfle/Kingsfold

Reflections on *Holy Work* from United Members

Reflection

Dana Bender

Silent reflection

Reflection

Blanca Surgeon

Silent reflection

Reflection

Rev. Jeff Hopson

Silent reflection

Musical Reflection

*While Moses Tended Jethro's Sheep* (v. 3-4)

Herman Stuempfle/Kingsfold

## WE RESPOND

### Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Prayer of Our Savior

Baptized into the Body of Christ, we are all called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. We can worship God in all our life. Let us pray for all who seek to honor God in their daily living and everyday work.

Bless those who work in government,

**that they might keep it serving the common good.**

Bless those who care for children,

**that their love might be a reflection of your love.**

Bless those who teach,

**that their knowledge might reflect your wisdom.**

Bless those who work within the institutional church,

**that they might keep it faithful in mission.**

Bless those who work the land, the mines, the forests, and fishing grounds,

**that they might be good stewards of God's creation.**

Bless those who work with the lonely, the homeless, the despairing, the alienated,

**that they might see the face of Jesus in each person.**

Bless those who wait tables, wash dishes, and sweep floors,

**that their service may be offered with dignity.**

Bless those who work in medicine and health care,

**that they might be instruments of healing.**

Bless those who manage businesses and corporations,

**that their decisions may be made with your will in mind.**

Bless artists and musicians,

**that they might help us see and hear more completely.**

Bless those who work in high technology,

**that they might enhance the dignity of human life.**

Bless those who are retired yet intercede for others with patience and faithfulness,

**that they would sense God's face shining on them.**

Bless those who look for work but cannot find it and those whose work is demeaning or difficult,

**that they might know their worth is not measured by their work, but by your love.**

Lord of the whole week, and of our whole selves, we pray for all who are attempting to serve you. Give us courage, patience, vision; and strengthen us all in our ministry of witness to the world and service to others. We pray in your name. Amen.

### Invitation to Offering our Gifts

*At the United Church of Santa Fe, we believe we are called to be God's hands and heart, loving God by loving our neighbors—wherever they are—and loving creation. Each week we have the opportunity to express that love through our Sunday offering. I invite the ushers to receive our gifts. I invite each of us to give out of our abundance. Thank you for your generosity and care for others.*

Offertory

*Medley of Prayer*

arr. James Michael Stevens

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Bless these gifts, O God, which have come from you and are returned to you. Multiply and use these, and all your gifts, to do your work of love and hope through our lives and the life of this church for the sake of your people and your creation. Amen.**

## Sharing the Sacrament of Communion

### The Story of this Feast

### The Invitation to the Table

Friends and neighbors, at this table, God invites us and all people to receive new life and abundant love.

**We come to be renewed by God's spirit and transformed by God's love.**

Out of love, God called the world into being. Out of love, God formed us from the dust of the earth.

**And with love, God transforms ordinary bread, a common cup, and our lives into gifts of new life.**

Therefore let us keep this feast. Let us welcome and love all God's children, as God welcomes and loves us.

### Prayer of Blessing and the Lord's Prayer *(please pray any version)*

### Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*(All are welcome to share in Communion. As your section is called, please come down the designated aisle, receive the bread and either dip it into the chalice or take one of the small cups. Then return to your seat by the next aisle. For a non-gluten wafer, please let the server know. Again, all are welcome!)*

### Our Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Life-giving God, we give you thanks for these gifts from your hand—*el pan, la copa, el amor de Cristo*—and communion with you. Through these gifts, you feed us with your presence and fill our hearts and souls. Through these gifts, you bind us together and strengthen us for your work of hope and justice. Send us now into your world with your blessing that our lives might bless the lives of others. We pray in your name. Amen.**

## WE GO OUT IN PEACE

\*Hymn 425

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

Ar Hyd y Nos

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

*Kyrie Eleison*

Ukrainian Orthodox Church

*Kyrie eleison.*

*Christe eleison.*

*Kyrie eleison.*

## Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory.

## WELCOME TO THE UNITED 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](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org)) for more information. Again, welcome!

Sharing in today's service are Worship Leader Rev. Jeff Hopson; Reflectors Dana Bender and Blanca Surgeon; Music Director/Pianist Michelle Schumann; Dawn Williams, Flute; Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator and audio volunteer Bill Whitney. You were welcomed by Dana Hollifield, Kimberly Zeilik, Rosemary Thompson, Pam Hyde, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault. The flowers on the Communion Table are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Tony Sawtell, whose memorial service was a year ago this weekend.

Childcare for infants through Kindergarteners is offered in the Nurture Center. Elementary-age children are invited to stay with their parents through worship or join in the quiet activities available in the Pray-Ground (at the back of the Sanctuary) this morning! Our *Kids United* Sunday program resumes next Sunday. We're glad you're here!

Rev. Talitha Arnold is away through Tuesday, September 15. If pastoral need arises, please call the church office (505-988-3295); Pastoral Caregiver on Call June Yoder (505-503-0555) or Clergy on Call Rev. Ben Larzelere (505-699-1000).

The church office is closed tomorrow, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day.

### ***Write Letters to Advocate for Immigrants – Today after the Service in Learning Center***

The Immigration Task Force hosts a letter-writing forum, focused on urging our Congressional Representatives and national administration to close immigrant detention centers in our state and elsewhere and to work for actual immigration

## Coming Up at United

### ***Books That Didn't Make It into the Bible***

#### **Pretty Good Guys**

**Wed., Sept. 9 (10:30 am – Noon)**

Not all Gospels made it into the Bible. What were they? What did they say? And why weren't they included? Join these lively discussions, every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.

### **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals Begin This Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7:00 pm**

The Sanctuary Choir resumes its normal rehearsal schedule this Wed. at 7:00 pm and begins singing in the 10:00 service next Sunday, Sept. 13 with warmup at 9:00 am. Interested in singing? Contact Music Director Michelle Schumann: [unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com).

### ***"What Does the Bible Say about Forgiveness?"***

**Resiliency and Hope Study Group**  
**Thursdays at 8:00 am (MDT)**  
**via Zoom**

Explore Sunday scriptures with members and friends from across Santa Fe and across the country. All welcome! Register: [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

### ***Fiesta Sunday All Church Burrito Brunch! – Next Sunday, September 13***

What better way to celebrate Fiesta Sunday than a Burrito Brunch with your church community? Stay after the 10:00 service and share the fellowship, along with burritos, fruit, and dessert! Sign up today!

## **LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR**

### **United Church Supports Earthquake Relief**

Just as Church World Service is on the ground in Venezuela to help in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes, CWS is also working in Colombia. All donations for earthquake relief to United Church of Santa Fe go directly to CWS for this work. Donate with checks to "United Church" (memo: Earthquake Relief) or through United's website: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org).

### **United Also Supports Fire Relief**

As this newsletter goes to print, the Frijoles Canyon fire is still raging through upper Santa Fe County. To help families (and their animals) who have lost their homes, United Church is collecting financial donations. Please memo checks "Fire Relief."

### **United's Shelter Supper Ministries Offer Food and Care**

United provides monthly suppers (meat loaf, veggie casserole, salad, dessert) to St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Shelters. Want to help? Come to "**Chop and Grate**" **Friday, September 18 (9:30 am)** or deliver food to shelters that afternoon (1:00 pm) or make meatloaf at home. Interested? Please contact Cathy Garret ([cathygarrett1@gmail.com](mailto:cathygarrett1@gmail.com)). You can also support this ministry with check (memo: shelter meals) or online donations ([unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org)). Thank you!

### **Friday, Sept. 11 Fundraiser Concert with *Nosotros* in Support of Santa Fe Immigrants at Tumbleroot Brewery (2791 Agua Fria Street, 7:00 - 9:30, doors open at 6:00 pm)**

Get involved with United's **Immigration and Refugee Task Force**.

(Melanie Lohman, Chair; 505-617-0700)

### ***While Moses Tended Jethro's Sheep***

Herman Stuempfle/Kingsfold

1. While Mo - ses tend - ed Jeth - ro's sheep In si - lent rev - er - ie,  
2. While Mar - y went a - bout her chores, Cleaned house with brush and broom,  
3. While Pe - ter sewed his fish - ing net One day by Ga - li - lee,  
4. O God, who made the earth and stars, Whose la - bors all sus - tain,

The God of Is - rael came to him In flam - ing mys - ter - y.  
An an - gel sud - den - ly ap - peared, And glo - ry filled the room.  
A strang - er stopped be - side his boat, Com - mand - ed, "Fol - low me!"  
In - car - nate as a Car - pen - ter Who built with saw and plane:

Thus, as we do our dai - ly work And walk our dai - ly round,  
Now, too, when du - ty clam - ors loud, When to - il has no end,  
Yet, work it - self may be a gift We of - fer God in praise  
Come, touch our hu - man toil with grace, Our work of hand or mind,

The Lord most High still vis - its us And makes life ho - ly ground.  
The Voice of God may still be heard And si - lent prayer as - cend.  
And, through it, serve our neigh - bor's need And sanc - ti - fy our days.  
And shape it to the per - fect plan Your wis - dom has de - signed.