

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD
IN
CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION**

**EASTER SUNDAY
April 5, 2026**

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



(Photo by National Geographic Photojournalist Anand Varma)

Reflection for Easter Sunday 2026

Only God is able. It is faith in God that we must rediscover. With this faith we can transform bleak and desolate valleys into sunlit paths of joy and bring new light into the dark caverns of pessimism. Is someone here moving toward the twilight of life and fearful of that which we call death? Why be afraid? God is able. Is someone here on the brink of despair because of the death of a loved one, the breaking of a marriage, or the waywardness of a child? Why despair? God is able to give you the power to endure that which cannot be changed. Come what may, God is able.

Let this affirmation be our ringing cry. It will give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom. When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds and our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a great benign Power in the universe whose name is God, and God is able to make a way out of no way, and to transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. This is our hope for becoming better human beings. This is our mandate for seeking to make a better world.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

Easter Hymn Medley

*Introit

Zimbabwe Alleluia (2x)

Abraham Maraire

**Please rise in body or spirit.*



Al-le-lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts of Peace, Hope, and New Life

*Sharing the Easter Proclamation from Christian and Navajo Traditions

"Christos anesti!" ("Aleithos anesti!")

"Christ is risen!" ("Risen indeed!")

"Beauty is restored again!" ("Restored indeed!")

*Regathering

Zimbabwe Alleluia (2x)

Abraham Maraire

Welcoming of Visitors and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

WE REMEMBER THE JOURNEY

The Journey to this Day

Palm Sunday (**congregation-bold**)

John 12:2-3

When the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— Hosanna in the highest!"

Hosanna!

St. Theodulph

Hosanna in the highest! That ancient song is ours. We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers. Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice. Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!

Silence

Good Friday

John 19 (cond.)

(From the cross), Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A soldier put a wine-soaked sponge on a branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is accomplished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, a follower of Jesus (and member of the Council), and Nicodemus, a religious leader who had at first come to Jesus by night, came to take Jesus' body down from the cross. They wrapped it with spices in linen cloths. Near to where he was crucified was a new tomb. They laid Jesus there.

Musical Remembrance

The Passion Chorale

J.S. Bach

Silence

Today!

Mark 16:1-4

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

Silence

Song

Praise the Lord

Cameroon

(First time solo. Then the Children's Choir. Then the whole congregation rises to join in—2 more times!)



Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Our Proclamation of Faith

Sing to the Lord a new song for God has done marvelous things! ¡Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ¡Aleluya!

Sing to the God of new life! ¡Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ¡Aleluya!

Sing to the Lord who brings light to the world and joy in the morning!

¡Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ¡Aleluya!

Sing to the Lord who brings life out of death and victory over the grave!

¡Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ¡Aleluya! ¡Aleluya! ¡Aleluya!

*Our Song of Joy

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done,
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led,

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say:
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise,
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise,

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply:
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise,
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,

WE PREPARE FOR NEW LIFE

A Prayer of Invocation (based on a sermon of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

We praise you, O God, that by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
You have shown us time and again, you are able,

**able to deliver us from the power of death, able to make a way out of no way,
able to overcome our fears with your love and new life.**

Give us the courage to entrust our lives to you and the faith to know that you are able,

**able to transform desolate valleys into sunlit paths of joy,
able to bring new life into the dark caverns of pessimism,
able to help us face the uncertainties of the future
and turn shadowed yesterdays into bright tomorrows.**

May our faith in you be our hope for being better human beings.

May the power of your new life be our mandate to make a better world for all your people. Amen.

A Time for Silent Prayer

The Good News of Resurrection

I Corinthians 15:51-57

*Our Song of Praise

Easter Hymn

***Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given. Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now. Alleluia! Hail, the Resurrection thou! Alleluia!***

*(Children through 2nd grade are invited to Kids United.
They return on the final hymn for the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus.)*

WE ENGAGE THE STORY

The Story Continues

Mark 16:4-8

[When the women got to the tomb,] they saw that the stone was rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.” And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.



A Song of Resurrection

Morning Has Broken

Eleanor Farjeon/Bunessan

***Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!***

***Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning! Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day.***

The Easter Message

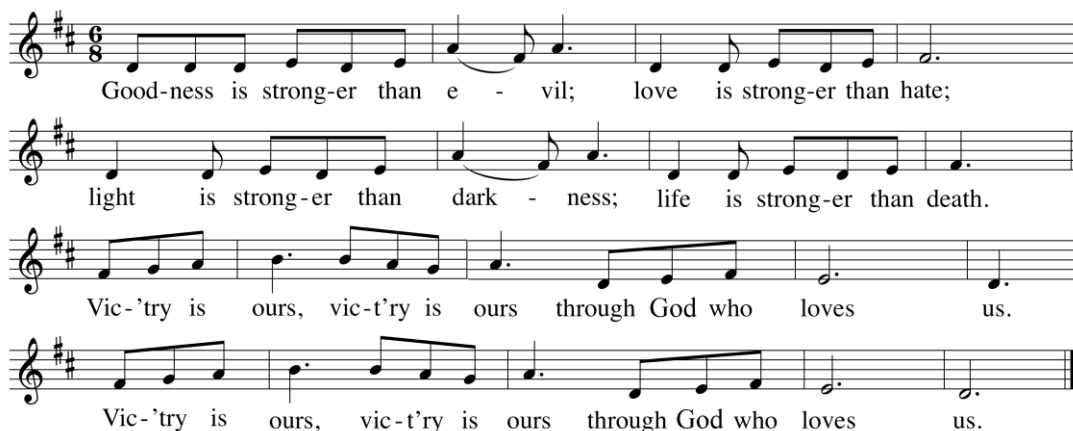
Shhh—Don't Tell Anyone—but Easter is Hard Work!

Silent Reflection

Affirmation in Song

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil (2x)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu/John Bell



Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than hate;
light is strong-er than dark - ness; life is strong-er than death.
Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is ours through God who loves us.
Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is ours through God who loves us.

WE RESPOND

With Our Prayers

God of ceaseless new beginnings, you have done the completely unexpected deed. In the Resurrection, you faced down death and raised Jesus Christ to life.

¡Gracias a Dios!

You transformed frightened disciples and ordinary women into your witnesses for new life in this world. Even now, you turn despair into wonder and fill all creation with hope.

¡Gracias a Dios!

On this Easter, transform our lives that we might transform this world.

Help us trust your Resurrection power in each of our lives and all life.

Señor, escúchanos.

Creating God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

Open our eyes and ears to your world born new with each sunrise.

Open our hearts and minds to the possibility contained in every seed, every person, every breath.

Señor, escúchanos.

Loving God, you embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Make us channels of your love and peace for all peoples and all creation.

Give us the hope to dream your new world, your beloved community of life and all its glory.

And give us the courage and commitment to dedicate our lives to making that dream a reality.

Señor, escúchanos.

Hear now our prayers we offer in the silence of our hearts.

(A time of silent prayer)

We pray in the name of the Risen Christ, your incarnate Word of love made flesh in our world, who rolls away the stones of fear and despair, who gathers up the fragments of our lives and creates new possibilities, and who taught us to pray to you with boldness, courage—and most of all—trust, saying:

(Please pray the Lord's Prayer in a version familiar to you.)

With Our Resources

(Your offerings are a tangible sign of God's new life and hope. They support all the ministries of the United Church of Santa Fe, from our care for the wider community and world to our work with children and youth to the ministries of music, pastoral care, and creation advocacy. You can also donate online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you for your generosity!)

The Angel Rolled the Stone Away

African American Spiritual/arr. Jester Harrison

Prayer of Thanksgiving

WE GO WITH PRAISE

*Hymn

Yours Is the Glory

Judas Maccabeus

(If you wish to sing "The Hallelujah Chorus," please join the choir at the front during the hymn.)

***Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.
Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away; Conquered is the grave in which your body lay.
Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.***

***See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared; Do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing; Tell it without ceasing: Death has lost its sting.
Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.***

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*Reading the Names

(We remember members and friends in the congregation who died this past year. You are also invited to name others.)

*A Moment of Silence to Remember

*Benediction

****The Hallelujah Chorus*** from *Messiah*

George Frederick Handel



Welcome to the United Church of Santa Fe!

We're glad you have joined in this Easter Celebration and invite you to join the life and ministry of United in the coming weeks. For information, please check out the announcements below or call the church office (505-988-3295) or go to our website (unitedchurchofsantafe.org). Also, if you're visiting, please fill out a yellow Visitor's Card. That helps us be a more welcoming community (and we promise not to inundate you with emails ☺). Again, welcome and blessings for Easter!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Minister; Michelle Schumann, Director of Music/Pianist; Family Minister and Children's Choir Director Dana Bender; Sanctuary Choir led by André García-Nuthmann; Tyler Fries, trumpet; David Darby, percussion; Luke Rand, Jaden Rand, Dawn Williams, Blanca Surgeon, Althea Pak, Liturgists; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez, with volunteer audio tech Frank Wilbanks. Many thanks also to Ministers of Hospitality Rosemary Thompson, Louise Cavatta, Dana Hollifield, Don Duncan, Blanca Surgeon, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks organized by Diane Darby; Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault; and the Parish Life Team, led by Louise Cavatta, for hosting the Cupcake Reception; for Office Administrator Lin Raymond for preparing all the Holy Week bulletins, office volunteer Maggie Popp, Coffee Maker :-). Dana Hollifield, Donna Clark, and Christy Jones of the Sacred Space Team prepared the Sanctuary for all four services of Holy Week—and Russ Rountree crafted the newspaper ads that let you know what was happening. Family Minister Dana Bender, with volunteers Karen Wilbanks, Tracy Church, and others, along with Children's Ministry Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz organized the Easter Egg Hunt. Finally, thank you all for joining in this wonderful morning!

LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, CREATION

That's Our Goal at the United Church of Santa Fe – in a host of ways!

More info at unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

Love Neighbor . . .

- Monthly Suppers for St. E's, and Casa Familia. (Sheree Whitney, Cathy Garrett)
- Ukrainian and Palestinian Refugee Relief, Navajo/Diné support; Immigration Ministries, BookKids, and more.

Love Creation. . .

- *Compost for Creation* (with Reunity Resources), *Carbon Offset Program* (with NM Interfaith Power and Light; SF Watershed Association); *SF River Cleanup* (with SF Watershed Assoc.)

COMING UP IN WORSHIP

8:30 Contemplative Communion

10:00 Sanctuary Service with Choir and Special Music

“Knowing New Life”

2nd Sunday of Easter – April 12

In both the 8:30 Communion and 10:00 Sanctuary Service, United members reflect on their experience of new life. In the 10:00 service, we also welcome several United youth musicians offering their musical gifts throughout the service.

The Journeys of Youth

Confirmation and Initiation to Adulthood Sunday – May 10

United's Youth Confirmation/Initiates are wrapping up their formal classes on upcoming Sunday mornings. This journey began in the fall with a retreat at Glorieta Outdoor Center, hours of discussions with one another and our mentors. On **Sunday, May 10**, in the 10:00 service, we celebrate their journeys of faith and bless them all for the future.

Rabbi Martin Levy – Guest in Worship and Sunday Forum

Sunday, May 17

We welcome Rabbi Martin Levy of Temple Beit Tikva to share a dialogue sermon with Rev. Talitha Arnold on what it means to be in covenant with God, neighbor and creation. We will also bless our Middle School, High School, and College graduates this Sunday.

COMING UP IN SUNDAY FORUMS

(11:15 am after 10:00 Worship)

ICE's Impact on Santa Fe Kids

Sunday, April 12

How has the presence of ICE in Santa Fe impacted children? Are kids afraid to come to school? Are parents afraid to go buy groceries? What can the United Church do to help? We welcome Blanca Ortiz, who grew up in Santa Fe and is now a caseworker for Nava Elementary with Communities in Schools to share her experience and perspectives.

The Climate: Social, Material, Moral-Spiritual

April 26, May 3 and 10 with Larry Rasmussen

More than the planet's material climate is changing. So, too, is the social and moral-spiritual context and climate. These three forums, led by Environmental Ethicist Larry Rasmussen (Professor Emeritus – Union Seminary), address where we are, how we got here, and what our constructive responses might be.

STUDY GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

What Are Biblical Values? – Pretty Good Guys

Wednesdays—April 8 and 22 – 10:30 am to 12:00 noon

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 for purchase in the Community Room.

Whiskey Tender

Wednesday Women’s Study Group – Wednesday, April 15 – 10:00 to 11:30 am

Whiskey Tender by Yuma/Navajo author Deborah Jackson Taffa, is this month’s focus. All women welcome! (Cheryl Morton, mommorton@gmail.com; Jenn Wynne, home@wynnes.us).

Resiliency and Hope: Unpacking the Gospel of John

Thursdays at 8:00 am – Zoom (please register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

John’s Gospel is beautiful, confusing, challenging, troubling, and head-scratching. All welcome to join in this in-depth study (via Zoom).

WE’VE GOT FAITH IN KIDS!

Every Sunday United’s young ones explore and experience God’s love and care in a whole variety of ways:

- Nursery care is offered for **infants and toddlers** in the Nurture Center.
- **Pre-K’s and Kinders** learn songs, make art, and hear stories of our faith.
- **Elementary age children** start worship with the adults and youth, then in *Kids United*, they explore the same stories the adults and youth are engaging in worship.
- For children who want to stay in the service, there’s also the **“Pray-Ground” at the back of the Sanctuary.**
- **This summer, 10:00 am Sunday Kids United** includes lots and lots of music – from learning to play chimes and African drums to singing all kinds of songs! Bring a friend (or your grandchildren) and check us out! Families of all forms welcome.

And in June – United offers our Summer Arts Camp!

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE

LOVE IN ACTION ARTS CAMP

15-19 JUNE AGES (9AM-3PM) 1ST-6TH GRADE

\$125/CAMPER (INCLUDES LUNCH AND SNACKS)

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SIGN UP AND REGISTER ONLINE: UNITEDCHURCHOFSANTAFE.ORG 505-988-3295

Special Remembrances (2026)

The Easter Lilies and other flowers are given to the glory of God and . . .

In Loving Memory Of:

Jean & Henri Abel
Rev. Homer & Mary Louise Akers
David Earl Anderson
Elizabeth Standring Arnold &
Lee W. Arnold
Dr. & Mrs. A.A. Ashby
Dr. Charles & Jean Ashby
Sherman & Kathryn Ashby
Marshall Bagley
Blaine Harlow Baker
Roy & Helen Barker
Cliff Beck
Rick Bentz
Chris Bjork
Gardner & Florence Black
Nancy Blake
Jane Abbot Bliss
Lonny & Mary Virginia Bond
Betty Bordner
The Rev. Betsy Bueschel
William B. Burnett
The Rev. Robert Burt
Emily Calhoun
Bill & Georgia Carson
Dr. & Mrs. W.A. Cassidy
Cavatta Family
Sharen Christensen
James E. Corbin
U. Lee & Nora B. Corbin
John Benjamin Crews
Herman Diers
Jean, Verne & Doug Duncan
Annikki Elkind
Jerry Elliott
Moiria & Richard Flanagan
Helen Mueller Fahrenholz
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fricke
John E. Garman & Levone Kail
The Rev. Paul Gaston
Sarah Ghiorse
Rev. Mary & Rev. Shirley Greene
Joseph & Hilda Harlow
Luther Hoopes & Patricia Hoopes
The Rev. Jesse Jackson
Rev. Kathleen Jimenez
A.E. & D. J. Johnson
Karen Holbrook Knauer
Maggi Konzen
Millie Koomas
Patricia Kudla
Denise Kusel

Jo & Bob Lanz
Judy Laughlin
Brett Lindsey
Bea Loennecke
Megan Markus
Leon & Chris Mattingly
Albert McCord
Phyllis Pruden McDonald
Monica Merchand
Herbert H. Miller
Carla Muth
Nana and Scottie
Dorothy Patinka
Vicki Fell Pertsch
Suzanne Poling
Jean & David Popp
Flossie Shamblin Pruden
The Rev. Francis Rath
Karl Ray, M.D.
Olivia Angelic Rindone-Dodson
Mary Robinson
Cleo Romo Rogers
Rev. Bruce Rolstad
Romero Family
Mike Rosow
Gladys & Ed Rutschman
Gary Salman
Gloria & William Sawtell
Helen & Stephen Sawtell
Tony Sawtell
Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Sawtell, Sr.
Claire Standring Schoenfelder
Ryan Schroeck
Marj & Bud Sewing
The Rev. Dr. Reuben A. Sheares, II
John & Bea Skeen
Grace Dexter Skeen
Fred Smith
Glen Smith
Nico Smith
Jennifer Wilkison Stahl
Talitha B. & T. Wirt Standring
John B. Stewart
Royce Stewart
Roger Summers
Tom & Vera Swantner
Rico Tapia
Mies van Hoogstraten
Viola Varble
The Rev. Gordon Verplank
Brian Vogel

Helen Wagner
Ben Whitehill, M.D.
Bob Wilpolt
Fountain & Pat Wilson
Harold & Anne Wooldridge
Marie Pruden Young

In Grateful Honor and with Love for:

In gratitude for the staff and
congregation of UCSF
The new life of Delfine Scott Arnold
The Rev. William Porter Bliss
The Rev. Joan Bates Forsberg
Byron Harris
Gail Mattson

