

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD  
for  
THANKS-SINGING SUNDAY**

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

**November 19, 2023  
10:00 A.M.**

*God is already here.*

**For Reflection:**

*If the only prayer you ever pray is “thank you,”  
that would be sufficient.*

Meister Eckhart, 12th century Christian mystic

*Focus on the true indigenous wisdom that is behind the philosophy of Thanksgiving—  
it’s about not taking, but giving back.*

Dana Thompson, Co-owner of “Sioux Chef”  
Wahpeton-Sisseton and Mdewakanton Dakota

**WE GATHER**

Gathering Music

*Give Thanks/Now Thank We All Our God*

arr. Joel Raney

\*Introit

***Come All You People***

*(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Alexander Gondo

***Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker.  
Come now and worship the Lord.***

***Come all you people, come and praise the Most High. . . .***

***Come all you people, come and praise your Savior. . . .***

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Welcome and Sharing of Our Life Together

Turning off Cell Phones and Breathing in God’s Gifts

*Blessings for this Blessed Day!*

\*Sharing God’s Blessings and Regathering

***Come All You People*** (st. 1)

Breathing in God’s Blessings Again

Musical Call to Worship

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Nun Danket

The Call to Worship from Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness!

For the Lord is good. ¡Porque Dios es bueno!

**¡Porque Dios es bueno!**

Come into God’s presence with thanksgiving. Enter God’s courts with praise.

**¡Porque Dios es bueno!**

God’s love goes from generation to generation.

**¡Porque Dios es bueno!**

God has made us and we are God’s. Sing praise!

**¡Porque Dios es bueno!**

Let us sing praise to the God of all generations!

**¡Porque Dios es bueno!**

**WE PREPARE**

A Prayer of Invocation (written by United children who are now United youth)

Thank you God,  
**for the animals that keep us company like dogs, cats, and turkeys.**  
 Thank for you for the sunny days  
**and the rainy and snowy days that keep the world alive.**  
 Thank you for Santa Fe  
**with its beautiful views, art, music, and all its different people!**  
 Thank you for our families  
**who comfort us when we are sad and when our siblings are nice.**  
 Thank you for the church community and all the people  
**who help us learn more about you,**  
**and who bring the cookies that bring us all together.**  
 We thank you, God,  
**for all the things in our life. Amen.**

A Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of God's Grace

\*Our Song of Praise

*We Gather Together*

Netherlands Folk Hymn (16th c.)

*We gather together to ask for God's blessing,  
 To turn to a wisdom surpassing our own.  
 The powers that oppress us, now cease to distress us,  
 O God, be present with us, and make your will known.*

*With voices united our praises we offer,  
 And gladly our song of thanksgiving we raise.  
 Our lives now confessing, we pray for thy blessing,  
 To you, our Great Redeemer forever be praise!*

**WE GIVE THANKS**

From a Letter to a Young Church, written from a Prison Cell

The Apostle Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:1-5

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A Call to Rejoice from the Muscogee Creek Hymn Tradition

*Heleluyan*

Muscogee Hymn

(Soloist sings once, congregation joins in second time.)

The Muscogee Creek hymn *Heleluyan* is part of a pre-removal music tradition that happened in the early 1800's and was a combination of African spirituals, Muscogee words and perhaps some influences from their ceremonial songs, and the Scottish missionaries who brought in Christianity and their own singing style. All three of those merge into what we now know as Muscogee Creek hymns that are a unique musical product in American and world music history. It is thought that *Heleluyan* originated just prior to or during the Trail of Tears that forced the Creek and Cherokee peoples to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) in 1838 and 1839. It was kept alive through oral tradition for over one hundred years.



He-le-lu-yan, he-le-lu-yan, he-le, he-le - lu - yan; He-le-lu-yan, he-le-lu-yan, he-le, he-le - lu - yan.

From South Africa

*Njalo* (choir sings once, congregation joins in 2x)  
("Njalo" is a Zulu word, pronounced "jaolo" that means "always.")

Vuyo Mokoena

Composer Vuyo Mokoena's drew upon his personal experiences of God and his strong Christian faith. With *Njalo* ("Always"), Mokoena wanted to convey that no matter what trials or challenges one may face, God's love and faithfulness will endure—always.

*Njalo, njalo, njalo, njalo, Njalo, njalo njalo njalo!*  
*Always we pray, always we give, always we bless, always.*  
*Always we pray, always we give, always we bless, always.*

From a Contemporary German Hymn Tradition

*Danke! (Thank You!)*

Martin G. Schneider

Pastor, Cantor, Composer and Organist Martin Schneider's *Danke* (Thank You!) song is the one and only sacred song to top the pop music charts of Germany and has been translated into 25 different languages. The group *Die Ärzte* recorded a punk rock version that kept it on the charts for 23 weeks.



1. Thank you for giv - ing me the morn - ing, thank you for ev - 'ry day that's new,  
2. Thank you— I have my oc - cu - pa - tion, thank you for ev - 'ry pleas - ure small,  
3. Thank you for man - y lit - tle sar - rows, thank you for ev - 'ry kind - ly word,



Thank you that I can know my wor - ries can be cast on you.  
Thank you for mu - sic, light and glad - ness, thank you for them all.  
Thank you for ev - 'ry - where your guid - ance reach - es ev - 'ry land.

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Music: 1969 Gustav Bosse Verlag GMBH (Admin. by Bosworth & Co Ltd). Used by permission CCLI License #785135

From an Austria composer and a Jewish Psalmist

*Laudate Dominum from Vespers*

Wolfgang Mozart/Psalm 117

With a commission from Salzburg Archbishop Colledero, the young Wolfgang Mozart set the traditional words of the Roman Catholic Vesper service to new music, giving new life to a text of praise (Psalm 117) written thousands of years earlier by an unknown Hebrew composer.

*Laudate Dominum omnes gentes*  
*Laudate eum, omnes populi*  
*Quoniam confirmata est*  
*Super nos Misericordia eius*  
*Et veritas, veritas Domini manet, manet in aeternum*

Praise the Lord, all nations;  
Praise God, all people.  
For the Lord has bestowed  
Mercy upon us,  
And the truth of the Lord endures forever.

*Gloria Patri et Filio*  
*Et Spiritui Sancto*  
*Sicut erat in principio*  
*Et nunc, et semper*  
*Et in saecula saeculorum*  
*Amen.*

Glory to the Father and to the Christ  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and forever,  
and for generations of generations.  
Amen.

Silent Reflection

Offering Ourselves in Prayer (based on the prayers of thanks from United Youth)

God of this whole world, we thank you for calling us to life and into life together.

¡Gracias a Dios!

We thank you for being with us every day and every night.

¡Gracias a Dios!

We thank you for our families who help us through hard times, for our families and all the people with whom we share life in this church, our schools, and this whole world.

¡Gracias a Dios!

We thank you for New Mexico sunsets,  
**and New Mexico mountains, New Mexico forests, New Mexico people, the New Mexico sky, and  
being able to see the stars almost every night.**

We thank you for people who make others feel good,  
who give compliments, hugs, sympathetic gestures, smiles, and laughs,  
who give food to people who need it,  
and who work around the world to help others in need.

**¡Gracias a Dios!**

We thank you for living in a house and having warm clothes and food,  
for volleyball, for being able to ride our bikes,  
and for all grandmas and grandpas, brothers and sisters, parents, stepparents  
and people who are like our parents.

**¡Gracias a Dios!**

We thank you for Countess, Dracula, and all our dogs,  
for all our animals that give us happiness every single day,  
and for our cats that keep us humble and grateful—for them.

**¡Gracias a Dios!**

We thank you for music and for kindness, and we pray for the places in this world where it's hard to give  
thanks and for the people who are in need of our care and our prayers. Spoken and—unspoken, hear the  
names of our sisters and brothers and of those places we lift in prayer to you.

*(The congregation is invited to offer names of people and places.)*

Hear all of our prayers this day, O Lord. Most of all, hear our thanks for your presence, your songs, and  
your joy in our lives and in this world. We pray all this in the name of the One who taught us to pray to you  
with boldness, courage, and trust, saying, *(please pray any version of the Lord's prayer)*

## WE GO OUT IN PEACE

\*Hymn

*The Whole Creation Is a Song*

Jeffery Rowthorn/Welsh Folk Hymn



1. The whole cre - a - tion is a song of praise to God mil - len - nia long;  
2. Tran - scend - ing time, en - cir - cling space, this song re - sounds in ev - ery place;  
3. From Beth - le - hem to Cal - va - ry one voice sang out to set us free,  
4. Now let us sing with grat - i - tude, for Christ is raised and hope re - newed,



each star, each wave, each cell and seed give thanks for God's cre - at - ing deed.  
each na - tion, lan - guage, creed and race re - veals God's prov - i - den - tial grace.  
so earth be - low joins heav'n a - bove to tell of God's re - deem - ing love.  
and for earth's sake be bold and dare to mir - ror God's un - fail - ing care.

Tune: arr. Noel Tredinnick, © 1982 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company) Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, © 1993, Hope Publishing Company

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

*Kyrie Eleison* (3x)

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

***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 leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Dr. Jessie Lo, Pianist; David Darby, drums; the United Choir; Louise Cavatta, Sasha Smucker, Jack Smucker, and Destiny Muñoz, Liturgists; Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. You were welcomed Trudy Swint, Kim Zeilik, Diane Darby, Pam Hyde, and Karen Wilbanks. Luis Zapata is the Sunday Aide.

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Andy Ritch, whose Memorial Service to give thanks for his life and commit his soul to God's eternal light is tomorrow (Monday) at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

### **Further Notes on Today's Hymns**

Musical Call: *Now Thank We All Our God*

Lutheran Pastor Martin Rinkart wrote his hymn of thanks as a table grace for his family during the Thirty Years War (1618–1648), one of the most destructive wars in European history. A gifted musician at prominent churches, Rinkart became a pastor shortly after the start of the war and served the people of Eilenburg for the next 30 years. He also served the refugees pouring into the city from the surrounding countryside. After the deaths of other clergy, the town council, and Rinkart's own wife due to pestilence and famine, he was left to minister to the entire city, sometimes preaching at burial services for as many as 200 dead in one week. Known as a faithful and caring pastor, he gave away everything he owned except for the barest essentials to care for his family. And he gave the world this hymn of thanks.

Hymn of Praise: *We Gather Together*

Originally a Dutch patriotic song, the hymn was written around 1600 by an unknown composer to celebrate the Netherlands freedom from Spanish rule. Theodore Baker, an American music scholar, translated the text into English in 1894 for an anthem titled "Prayer of Thanksgiving." In 1902, young Julia Cady Cory wrote new words to the familiar "Nun Danket," making it a more ecumenical hymn of thanksgiving.

Closing Hymn: *All Creation is a Song*

Retired Anglican Bishop of Europe, composer Jeffery Rowthorn taught worship and liturgy, as well as leading the Chapel ministry at both New York's Union Seminary and Yale Divinity School. With his late wife, environmentalist Dr. Anne Rowthorn, he has also compiled and edited numerous books of creation-based liturgies and hymns.

Musical Benediction: *Kyrie Eleison*

This setting of the *Kyrie Eleison* (Lord, have mercy) comes from the Ukrainian Christian Orthodox tradition. We have been singing it as our benediction since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine at the beginning of Lent, 2022. We had not anticipated to still be singing it almost two years later.

### **Adult Forums – Sundays at 11:15 am**

#### **Today (Nov. 19) – *When the Holidays Are Different***

We share resources and ways to engage the holidays when life has changed (a move, a loss, a new time of life).

#### **Next Sunday (Nov. 26) – *"Aging to Sage-ing" Groups***

Lots of people have expressed interest in the small groups forming to share the joys, challenges, and faith challenges of aging. This Sunday, we'll form the groups and they'll get started.

### **First-ever United Children's Epiphany Puppet Pageant Movie**

United's children have presented their annual Epiphany Pageant in many ways—indoors, outdoors, online. This year, our kids premiere our very first "Epiphany Puppet Pageant Movie" on Sunday, Jan. 7. They've started making the puppets in Sunday Children's Ministry, continuing through December Sundays. We hope your kids can join in!

### **Nov. 26 – *Surprising Mary and Joseph***

Throughout Advent, the children will also learn a part of the Christmas story each Sunday. Next Sunday it's about how God surprised both Mary and Joseph with joy and new life that first Christmas. They'll also make Christmas Bags to surprise guests at SF shelters with care and love.

### **Thank You for YOUR pledges to *HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS TO GIVE THANKS!***

#### **Campaign for United 2024**

Great gratitude for all who've organized United's stewardship work this fall and to all, near and far, who've pledged so generously. So far we've received 107 pledges for \$412,665. We'll make the \$550,000 goal with your help! You can mail your pledge USPS or send it via email. Also please consider the electronic debit/credit program. Email [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com) or call 505-988-3295 for info and forms. Thank you and thanks be to God.

## United Church Commits to Love God, Neighbor, and Creation in a Whole Lot of Ways

Supporting our Diné/Navajo neighbors. Providing relief and resettlement for Afghan, Central American, and Ukrainian refugees. Feeding hungry people in Santa Fe. 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](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org) to find out more!

### Calendars and Cards for Persons in Prison, Toiletries for Shelter Christmas Bags, "Socks-Giving"

#### Community Room Boxes for all items

- Bring 2024 calendars and unused Christmas cards for men at Santa Fe's State Penitentiary.
- Individual size new toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush) for Christmas Bags the children assemble for guests of St. Elizabeth Shelter. (**No** mouthwash, medications, razors.)
- Donate new pairs of warm socks for children, women, men who are guests of SF Shelters.

### Memorial Gifts for Christmas Wreaths, Poinsettias, and Flowers for Congregational Care

Help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas with gifts in honor or memory of loved ones (suggested donation: \$20/name). The Christmas flowers will go to United members and friends for whom this holiday season will be particularly difficult. Please fill out a form in the Community Room and leave it with your donation in the marked envelope (forms needed by Sunday, Dec. 10). Names will be in the Joyous Advent (Dec. 17) and Christmas Eve bulletins. Thanks!

### Compassionate Christmas Gifts—Starts Sunday, Dec. 3

In the true spirit of Christmas, we invite you to give United's *Compassionate Christmas Gifts* that give hope, care, and joy to people and places in need. The market will be Sundays Dec. 3, 10, and 17. Gifts include:

#### **New Mexico Immigrant Law Center: \$30**

Legal Services and Advocacy for Children, Youth, and Families.

#### **Santa Fe Shelters for the Homeless: \$60**

One night at St. Elizabeth, Casa Familia, Interfaith, or Youth Shelters.

#### **Church World Service: \$10**

Blankets for Refugees around the world (Ukraine, Sudan, Israel/Palestine).

#### **A Child's "Comfort" Backpack: \$25**

A Solace Crisis Center backpack with pj's, stuffed toy, etc.

#### **Youth Immersion Trip Scholarship: \$35**

Toward a youth scholarship for the Youth Immersion Trip, either to the U.S. Mexico Border or Navajo Nation.

#### **Communities in Schools Gift Card for Families in Need: \$50**

CIS started as United Church/Salazar School Partnership. It's grown and so have the needs of SF students.

#### **Field Trip to Audubon Center: \$25**

Sponsor a public school child to Santa Fe's Randall Davey Audubon Center.



### Advent Festival Choir Welcomes You!

This year's annual Advent celebration of Lessons and Carols is "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," on the Joyous Sunday of Advent, Dec. 17 in the 10:00 am service. We invite other singers to join the Sanctuary Choir for a short time to participate in this special event. If you'd like to participate, please let us know by emailing Director of Music Bradley Ellingboe ([unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com)). The last Wednesday you can come for the first time is Nov. 29.

### **Coro Lux – Bradley Ellingboe, Conductor – presents "A Candlelight Christmas"**

**Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4:00 and 7:00 pm – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Albuquerque**

Featuring the Oratorio Society, the Chamber Chorus, El Faro Youth Chorus, readings, and audience sing-alongs. ([abqcorolux.org/tickets/](http://abqcorolux.org/tickets/)). If there's interest, we'll carpool from the church for the 4:00 pm concert. Sign up today.

### **Smith's Community Inspiring Donations Program**

United receives a percentage on all purchases at Smith's when you use your Smith's *rewards* card at check out at no additional cost to you. To register your *rewards* card online, go to [smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations](http://smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations), sign into your account, look for "Inspiring Donations Program", and type in "The United Church of Santa Fe." Thanks!

### **Honduran Holiday! – Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023 – 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**2315 Calle Halcon – Ph. 505 577-6917**

Please join us in-person for authentic delicious Honduran meal (or pick up if you prefer). Your donation supports BECA (Bilingual Education for Central America), which operates three community schools in northern Honduras for underserved children, and Oasis de Amor, an orphanage and school in southern Honduras. \$30 suggested donation at the door.