A SERVICE OF THE WORD
Reformation Sunday

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

October 25, 2026
10:00 A.M.

God is already here.

For Reflection:

Each one of us is living proof that positive change is possible. Look at the track record of our own lives. There was more than one moment when the outcome was uncertain, but with trust in Spirit, support from others, and a stubborn hope that would not go away: life got better. We are witnesses to that truth. I am not asking you to believe in anything other than your own experience. No matter how hard things may get, you have seen the healing with your own eyes. You know the sacred is real.

Choctaw Elder and Episcopal Bishop Steven Charleston

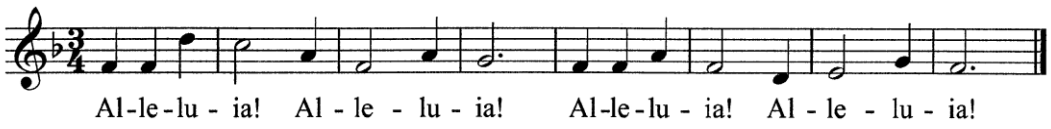
WE GATHER

(May the first note of the Prelude be a call to silent prayer as we prepare for worship.)

Gathering Music — *Adoration* — Florence Price
Renew — Brad Jacobsen

*Introit — ***Alleluia*** (2x) — Zimbabwe

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



Welcome and Sharing our Life Together

"Building Hope for the Future" Campaign for United 2027

Breathing in and Sharing God's Gifts — *May the Spirit be with you!*

Sharing God's Peace and Regathering — ***Alleluia*** (1x) — Zimbabwe

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship — *Nun danket alle Gott* — Nun danket/arr. Felix Mendelssohn

Call to Worship **(congregation bold)**

Praise God, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair. *¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!*
¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!
Praise God, who gathers up fragments of our lives and creates new possibilities.
¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!
Praise God, who laid the foundation of the earth and all the children of God shouted for joy!
¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!
People of God, come. Shout for joy and sing your praise to God.

*Hymn 4 — ***Joyful, Joyful*** (vs. 1-3) — Henry van Dyke/Ode to Joy

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation (from Howard Thurman, 20th C. theologian and inspiration for Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks and other Civil Rights leaders)

O Holy God,
open unto us
light for our darkness,
courage for our fear,
hope for our despair.

O God of peace,
open unto us
peace for our turmoil,
joy for our sorrow,
strength for our weakness.

O loving God,
open unto us
wisdom for our confusion,
forgiveness for our sins,
love for our hate.

O generous God,
open our hearts
to receive all your gifts,
to be the people you need us to be,
to do the work you need us to do. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance and Grace

*Our Song of Praise ***Joyful, Joyful*** Henry van Dyke/Ode to Joy

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

Blessing of the Children 325 ***Child of Blessing*** (vs. 1-2) Ronald Cole-Turner/Stuttgart

WE ENGAGE

From a Letter to a (Fairly) New United Church of Christ I Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

From Another Letter to a (Fairly) New United Church of Christ Romans 12:1-12 (cond.)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Hymn 451 ***Be Now My Vision*** (1-2) 8th c. Irish Hymn/Slane

Sermon *Re-Formed, not Conformed*

Silent Reflection

Musical Response 451 ***Be Now My Vision*** (3-4) 8th c. Irish Hymn/Slane

WE RESPOND AND RECEIVE

Offering Ourselves in Prayers *(We conclude with the Lord's Prayer. Please pray any version.)*

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory *On Faith Alone, I Stand* Tom Fettke

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 439 ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*** Ein' Feste Burg
(Stanzas 3 is sung acapella.)

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction ***Kyrie Eleison*** Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory.

****

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We hope you'll also join in the fellowship time after the service. If you're visiting today, we're glad you're here! Please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Director of Music/Pianist; the United Choir directed by John Tiranno; Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministries; Louise Cavatta, Liturgist. Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator, and volunteer Frank Wilbanks, coordinated the livestream. You were welcomed by Louise Cavatta, Blanca Surgeon, Frank Cionek, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

TODAY AT UNITED

Children's Ministry

- Nursery care for **infants and toddlers** (offered by Maria Navarette) and a time of songs, prayers, and stories for **Pre-K's and Kinders** (led by Tracy Church) is in the Nurture Center Sunday mornings, starting at 9:45.
- Following the "Song of Praise and Blessing of Children," **elementary-age children** are invited to ***Kids United*** where they explore ways to remember our loved ones through traditions like All Saints Day and *Día de los Muertos* and make paper flowers for their ofrenda. (Check it out in the Community Room!)

"Living into the 4th Quarter"
This Sunday's Forum – 11:15

The Congregational Care Team (June Yoder, chair) invites you to a special forum focused on "Living into the 4th Quarter." From decisions about health care and living situations to asking where God is as we face the challenges of aging, the 4th quarter of our lives comes with lots of questions. How can the church help? And how can we strengthen this important part of United's ministry. Led by Care Team members John Shaffer and Dave Wilkison.

Make United's Welcome a Real Deal!

We want to be a welcoming community every Sunday—we need your help to do that! Sign up today to greet/usher. It's a great way to meet new people and make new friends. Thanks!

The Week Ahead

Church Council meets this Tuesday – 5:15 pm

Talitha Arnold goes to California this Wednesday, Oct. 28 to lead the Memorial Service for Jerry Elliott, a former member of United. She returns on Saturday. If a pastoral need arises, please call the church office (505-988-3295) or Caregiver on Call Dana Hollifield (303-242-9681).

Books That Didn't Make It into the Bible **– Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday (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 biweekly discussions.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals – Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and sings in the 10:00 service Sunday (9:00 rehearsal). All welcome! Please contact Music Director Michelle Schumann (unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com) or Choral Director John Tiranno (unitedchurch.john@gmail.com).

***Forgiveness, Hope and Resilience* – Zoom Bible Study Group – Thursdays, 8:00–9:00 am (MDT)**

We're exploring what Jesus and Christian scripture said about forgiveness. All welcome.
To register, email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.



Daylight Saving Time Ends Next Sunday at 2:00 am.
Please remember to set your clocks back one hour next Saturday night, October 31.



Coming Up in the Coming Weeks

Adult Forum, Next Sunday, Nov. 1 – *Who's in Your Cloud? Saints We Have Known and Loved*

The Bible tells of the "great cloud of witnesses" whose faith and hope have help us keep the faith, too. On this All Saints Sunday, who has blessed your life? Taught you about the faith? Stood by you in good times and hard? This special forum is a time to remember our "saints" – and learn about the saints of others. All welcome!

United Church Open for Prayers for Our Nation and the World – Monday, Nov. 2 and Tuesday, Nov. 3

The Sanctuary will be open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday and Tuesday (Election Day). You are welcome to come for a time of personal prayer for our country and all people.

***Welcoming New Members* – Sunday, November 8**

On the second Sunday of November, we welcome new members into the United Church of Santa Fe. If you are interested in "officially" joining United, please speak with Rev. Talitha Arnold or Discipleship Chair Diane Darby. Thank you!

Tour Santa Fe's *Food Depot* – Tuesday, Nov. 10 – 9:30 am

Last year, The Food Depot's hunger-relief programs and partner agencies distributed *10 million pounds* of food across Northern New Mexico. Join United's tour of the Depot on Tuesday, Nov. 10 and find out how they do it! (And what we can do to help.) Sign up at church or at 505-988-3295.

***Moses and Jesus Go to the Movies* – Renesan Series with Talitha Arnold**
10:00 am Thursdays – Nov. 12 & 19



Throughout our history, American authors and movie directors have drawn upon both Jewish and Christian scriptures for themes, plots, and scenes. Through short readings, film clips, and visual art, Talitha Arnold explores the impact of ancient sacred texts on U.S. movies, particularly Melville's *Moby Dick* and Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. Info/Registration: renesan.org/moses-and-jesus-go-to-the-movies/.

LOVE GOD BY LOVING CREATION

United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change

Track car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and the *Santa Fe Watershed Association* for their environmental advocacy and hands-on care for God's good earth and generations yet to come. ($8/100 miles driven; $8/3 hours in the air). Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle! (And it helps mitigate climate change.)

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Two ways to help: 1.) Please use the compost containers in the Community Room and education rooms for your coffee cups, napkins, or plates from Fellowship Time or church meals. They're all compostable. 2.) Get compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and then put in green bin in back of the church.

Love God by Loving Our Neighbors (and keeping them warm this winter)
Clothing and Blanket Drive

Clean out your closets this fall and bring new and gently used jackets, sweaters, hats, mittens, and blankets to the Church. They'll go to St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Shelters, Interfaith Community Services, and Nava Elementary School. Kids can help, too—with their outgrown jackets, etc. You can also make a financial donation by check (please memo: "Clothing/Blankets") or at unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Spread the word to neighbors and friends and invite them to join in United's "Keeping Our Neighbors Warm" drive. Using the Church as a central clearing house makes donating easy!

You can also lend a hand sorting and delivering. Please email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or call 505-988-3295 to say you'll help!

Thank you!!