

A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for
THE 16th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
and
THE CLOSE OF ROSH HASHANA

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

September 17, 2023
10:00 A.M.

For Reflection:

The Hebrew word “Dayenu,” spoken and sung during Passover, translates as “enough.” It signifies deep acceptance and gratitude. We acknowledge the present moment. In the affirmation of *dayenu*, we are fully present to the preciousness of each act of God’s redemption and care – dividing the sea, leading us across, caring for us in the desert...we receive each moment with love. This acceptance allows us to move to the next moment and receive the waiting gift. When we greet each moment with conditions, judgements, and expectations – “well, this isn’t quite where we need to be” or “wait a second, this is not what we were promised” or “hey, what’s coming next?” – our expectations keep us tense. We are not free. We are not available to receive the next moment. Our fantasies about the past and our desire to control the future cut us off from the wonders of this moment. They shut us in a prison of disappointment and suffering. Dayenu is a great liberator. It is a jolt into the presence of awe, compassion, attention, and freedom.

Rabbi Sheila Pelzt Weinburg, *A Night of Questions*

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

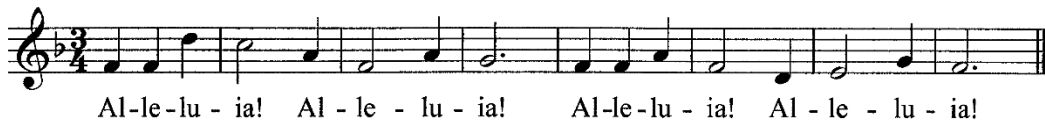
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio/arr. Larry Shackley

*Introit

Zimbabwe Alleluia (2x)
(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Abraham Maraire



Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

Breathing in and Sharing God’s Gifts *Blessing for this Blessed Day!*

Regathering and Breathing in God’s Gifts again **Zimbabwe Alleluia** (1x)

Musical Call to Worship *Wade in the Water* African American Spiritual

Call to Worship (**congregation in bold**)

Let us sing to the Lord and give thanks for God’s great deeds.

The Lord is our strength and our might, and has become our salvation.

Sing praise to the God of our parents and grandparents, the God of all generations.

Give thanks to the Creator of heaven and earth and our Creator.

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?

Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

Come, sing praise to God, the Lord of all wonder.

*Hymn 20

God of Abraham and Sarah
(Choirs sing 1st stanza, congregation joins 2-3)

James Gertmenian/Constantine

(After the hymn, children are invited to Children’s Ministry to learn about God’s great deeds and decorate cookies for the First Responders at the Fire Station up the street.)

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation from Congregation Beth El

We thank you, for you are our God, and God of our fathers and mothers forever.

You are the Refuge of our life, the Shield of our help.

**From generation to generation may we thank you and count your praises—evening, morning, and noon—
for our lives which are committed into your hand, for our souls which are entrusted to you,
for your miracles which are with us every day, for your wonders and goodness at all times.**

O Good One, your compassion does not fail.

O Merciful One, your loving kindness never ceases. Forever we hope in you.

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

*Our Song of Praise

God of Abraham and Sarah

Constantine

*In our lives from birth to dying, depth of sorrow, height of joy;
Praising God in every season, let every key our hearts employ.
Praise is the healing, praise, the glory, praise is the final mystery;
Down through the years let people praise you till alleluias set them free!*

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WE ENGAGE

From the History of the Hebrews (cong. bold)

Exodus 14:9-25 (cond.)

(When the Israelites fled Egypt), the Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, his chariot drivers and his army; they overtook them camped by the sea. . . As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord.

They said to Moses, "**Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians?' For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.**"

But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground." . . . So the angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Hymn 514

Over My Head (1-3)

African American Spiritual

Sermon

How About a Miracle, God?

A Time of Silent Reflection

A Musical Response

Go Down, Moses

Spiritual/adapted Mark Hayes

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Prayer of Our Savior (*Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.*)

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn

Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

Ruth Duck/Lancashire



1. Lead on, O cloud of Pres - ence; The ex - o - dus - is come;
2. Lead on, O fier - y pil - lar; We fol - low yet with fears,
3. Lead on, O God of free - dom, And guide us on our way,
In wil - der - ness and des - ert Our tribe shall make its home.
But we shall come re - joic - ing, Though joy be born of tears.
And help us trust the prom - ise Through strug - gle and de - lay.
Our bond - age left be - hind us, New hopes with - in us grow.
We are not lost, though wand - 'ring, For by your light we come,
We pray our sons and daugh - ters May jour - ney to that land
We seek the land of prom - ise Where milk and hon - ey flow.
And we are still God's peo - ple. The jour - ney is our home.
Where jus - tice dwells with mer - cy And love is law's de - mand.

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*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) for more information. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Dr. Jessie Lo, Pianist; the United Choir; Louise Cavatta and Burce Turnquist, Liturgists; Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. You were welcomed by Louise Cavatta, Karen Wilbanks, Marilyn Gardner, and Trudy Swint. Luis Zapata is the Sunday Aide.

Adult Forum: *What Do Families Need? – Today (11:15 am)*

The pandemic has taken a tremendous toll on families. As we emerge into its aftermath, what do parents need to help their children find hope and resilience? What do they need in their own lives from the church? If you're a parent, come and share your thoughts. If you're past parenting, come to listen.

WE INVITE YOUR MORNING OFFERING

Your morning offering, along with regular pledges, makes possible the abundant life and ministry of the United Church. As you leave, please take a moment to leave your offering in the Community Room plates. Thank you!

United's Children Love God, Neighbor, and Creation and take a Journey of Faith!
Sunday Mornings during 10:00 Worship

Steven Spielberg and Marvel Comics have nothing on the Book of Exodus, the Bible's great story of people learning to live freely, in covenant with God, one another, and creation. Moses parts the Red Sea, water gushes from a rock, God sends manna in the desert, etc. etc. As kids find their role in God's great story, they learn how to care for others and all creation—just as God cared for the people in the wilderness. All kids—and friends—welcome!

Prayer Child Ministry

Each year, every United young person is paired with an adult who holds them in daily prayer. Would you be a “Pray-er?” Let us know at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. We bless all the kids and their pray-ers next Sunday, Sept. 24. Thanks!

Women's Study Group – Wednesday, Sept. 20 (10:00 am)

All women welcome. We continue with Bonnie Gamus' *Lessons in Chemistry*. Pick up book schedule in the Community Room or contact Barbara MacPhee (macphee.b@gmail.com).

Sanctuary Choir has Started! – Rehearsal This Wednesday, Sept. 20 (7:00 pm)

The Sanctuary Choir has started its regular rehearsal schedule: Wednesday rehearsal at 7:00 pm; sing in the Sunday 10:00 service. All welcome! Interested in joining? Contact Director of Music Brad Ellingboe: unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com.

Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls
Thursdays at 8:00 am via Zoom

Explore Sunday scriptures with Talitha Arnold and friends from across Santa Fe and across the country.

Adult Forum: *What's Happening in School? (and how can United be supportive?)* – Next Sunday (11:15 am)

We welcome educators from the United congregation to share their experiences and perspectives on the hopes they have and the challenges they face.

Summer Drive for the Food Depot Concludes Next Sunday

If you have a home garden, bring extra produce to United. Or bring cans/boxes of vegetables/fruit, pasta, rice; family-size packages of high-protein foods (beans, canned meats, soups); baby foods (powdered formula, cereal, jars); diapers. Monetary donations welcome: check (memo “Food Depot”) or online (unitedchurchofsantafe.org). Thank you!

United Church Supports Hawai'iian Fire Relief

Many Maui communities have historic Congregational (United Church of Christ) churches. Their members, many of whom are indigenous Hawai'ians, lost family, friends, and homes in the fires. Other UCC churches are sheltering people and livestock, regardless of any church affiliation. We invite your donations (by check, memo: “Hawai'i Fire Relief”; online: unitedchurchofsantafe.org) to send to Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you.

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 to find out more!

United's Immigration & Refugee Task Force Welcomes You!

We engage our United community in advocacy, education, policy work, and direct support for refugees and immigrants around the world, at the U.S./Mexico border, and in Santa Fe. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month, sponsor Immigration and Refugee Forums and events like Advocacy Day, etc. For info: Avril Ekstrand (505-490-8164, avrilekstrand@yahoo.com).

Santa Fe Cielo Azul Park Tree Planting – Saturday, Sept. 30, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Desert-adapted trees are the most effective and least expensive way to capture carbon and combat climate change. Lend a hand Sat., Sept. 30 when *Tree New Mexico* plants trees in Cielo Azul Park. Trained personnel provide education and the holes are dug beforehand. For info and to register, email Special Projects Program Director Betta Eisenberg (betta@treenm.org).

***From Aging to “Sage-ing”* – Study Group Forming**

Following the forum on *Living into Aging*, a number of people expressed interest in starting study groups to continue the conversations. If you're one of them, please let Talitha Arnold know of your interest or sign up in the Community Room.

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. Thanks!

The United Community is invited to the Memorial Service for Betty Bordner
Next Saturday, Sept. 23, 10:00 am

***The Evolution of the Negro Spiritual* – Saturday, Oct. 7 (2:00 pm) at United**

Bass-baritone Marques Jerrell Ruff guides listeners through the inception to the development of the Negro spiritual in a concert fundraiser for the Equal Justice Initiative. Nathan Salazar accompanies. Tickets: \$45 in-person/ \$35 online (EJL.org). For info, contact Bettye Kears (BettyeKears.com).