

A Service of the Word  
for  
The Second Sunday after Epiphany Sunday  
and  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

January 18, 2026  
10:00 A.M.

The United Church of Santa Fe  
A United Church of Christ



A Poem for Today

*May this be the day  
We come together.  
Mourning, we come to mend,  
Withered, we come to weather,  
Torn, we come to tend,  
Battered, we come to better. . .  
  
Come over, join this day just begun.  
For wherever we come together,  
We will forever overcome.*

Amanda Gorman, 2021

## WE GATHER

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

Gathering Music

*Sleep Well  
Wade in the Water*

Carlos Simon  
arr. Chris Nike

\*Introit

**Standing in the Need of Prayer** (2x)  
(\*Please rise in body or spirit)

African American Spiritual

*It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.  
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.*

*Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer. (2x)*

Welcome, Sharing Our Life and Ministry, and Breathing In God's Gifts

Sharing God's Blessing and Regathering in Song

**Standing in the Need of Prayer**

African American

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

*We'll Understand It Better, By and By*

Charles Tindley

The Call to Worship from Trinity United Church of Christ (Chicago, Illinois)

Beautiful are the works of God!

**Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!**

Beautiful is the mind of God!

**Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!**

Beautiful is the heart of God!

**Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!**

God made the heavens and the earth!

**To God be the glory for the things God has done.**

Let us sing our praise!

\*Hymn

394

***In Christ There Is No East or West***

John Oxenham/Harry T. Burleigh

## WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation from Psalm 139 (cong. in bold)

O Lord, you have searched us and known us.  
You know when we sit down and when we rise up;  
    you discern our thoughts from far away.  
You search out our paths and our lying down,  
    and are acquainted with all our ways.

**Where can we go from your spirit?  
Or where can we flee from your presence?  
If we ascend to heaven, you are there;  
    if we make our bed in Sheol, you are there.**

If we take the wings of the morning  
    and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead us,  
    and your right hand shall hold us fast.

**Search us, O God, and know our hearts;  
test us and know our thoughts.  
See if there is any harmful way in us,  
    and lead us in the way everlasting**

In a Time of Silent Prayer

The Affirmation of God's Grace

\*In a Song of Praise

***From All That Dwell below the Skies***

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung! Let God the Spirit free each tongue!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

(During the song, preschoolers are invited to the Nurture Center  
with Education Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.)

## WE ENGAGE GOD'S WORD

Jesus Is Recognized

John 1:29-42

The next day John the Baptizer saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see."

They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated "Anointed"). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated "Peter").

Hymn 454

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* (vs. 1)

African American

Sermon

*God of Our Weary Years*

Silence

Musical Response 454

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* (vs. 3-4)

African American

## WE SHARE OUR PRAYERS AND OUR GIFTS

Pastoral Prayer and the Prayer of our Savior

*(We conclude with the Lord's Prayer. Please pray a version familiar to you.)*

Offering Our Gifts

*We Shall Overcome*

U.S. Trad./arr. G. Phillip Shoultz

Prayer of Dedication

## WE GO IN PEACE

\*Hymn 570

*We Shall Overcome* (1-3)

U.S. Traditional

\*Benediction

*We Shall Overcome*

U.S. Traditional

*We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace, we shall live in peace, someday.  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall live in peace someday.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH! *We're glad you're here!*

Your presence enriches worship for all of us. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

### Sharing Leadership in Worship Today

We welcome the Rev. Ben Larzelere as guest preacher this morning. Ben and his wife Bev have been good friends of the United Church community through the years he served Christ Lutheran Church. Following his retirement, they joined United and we have been blessed by their presence. Also sharing leadership are Michelle Schumann, Music Director/Pianist; Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministry; the Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; Sarah Sawtell, Liturgist; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator, assisted by Frank Wilbanks. You were welcomed by Rosemary Thompson, Marcia Gardner, Diane Darby, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

Nursery care is available for our youngest children this morning. School-age kids are encouraged to be a part of the service today.

***Immigration and Refugees: What's Happening at the Roundhouse? – Today – 11:15 am***

United's Immigration and Refugee Task Force provides an update on legislation proposed for the month-long Legislative session (starting tomorrow). Learn how you can make your voice heard and make a difference.

Talitha Arnold is away through Tuesday, January 20. Should a pastoral emergency arise, please call the church office (505-988-3295) or the Caregiver on Call (Dave Wilkison, 505-400-0504).

***LGBTQ+ Concerns and Rights in the Current Administration***  
***Adult Forum – Next Sunday, January 25***

We welcome Kevin Bowen, Executive Director of New Mexico Human Rights Alliance, for an update on the new national regulations concerning gender-affirming care and their impact not only on Transgender persons, but also on the LGBTQI+ community as a whole and on hospitals and clinics providing such care. He'll address overall LGBTQI+ concerns in general under the current administration.

**COMING UP THIS WEEK...**

***MLK Day at the Roundhouse – Monday, Jan. 19, 12:00 pm***

Sponsored by the Santa Fe NAACP and featuring keynote speaker Gene Grant, Director of the New Mexico Office of African American Affairs.

The Church office is closed Monday, Jan. 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

***Women's Study Group Fieldtrip – Wednesday, Jan. 21 – 9:30 am***

To learn about the history of Catholicism in New Mexico the Study Group will tour the St. Francis Cathedral Basilica, led by docent Stanley Robb. Meet at the Basilica shortly before 9:30 am. To sign up and receive parking information, RSVP to Cheryl Morton ([mommorton@gmail.com](mailto:mommorton@gmail.com)).

***Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Wednesday, 7:00 pm***

***Resiliency and Hope: Unpacking the Gospel of John***

Thursdays at 8:00 am – Starting this week

Zoom (please register at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com))

***United's Shelter Supper Ministries***

Help provide supper for guests of St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Family Shelters by volunteering (sign up today!) or supporting financially with an online donation or check (memo: shelter meals). **Before Fri., Jan. 23**, make meatloaf at home, put in church freezer (8 needed); **Fri., Jan. 23 – Chop & Grate (9:30 am)** at United; **Fri., Jan. 23 – Deliver food to shelters (1:00 pm)**. Please contact the office ([unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)) for more information. Thank you!

***Family Fun Night – Friday, January 23, 5:30-7:30 pm***

All are welcome for an evening of food, games, and activities! We'll get a sneak preview of the new playground/outdoor worship space coming soon. Enjoy the company of your church family. Bring the kids, grandkids, and friends! RSVP to [unitedchurch.sf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.sf@gmail.com) or sign-up in the Community Room no later than January 19. Questions? Please contact Dana Bender ([unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com)).

***Memorial Service for Royce Stewart – This Saturday, January 24 – 10:00 am***

***FebFest 2026 – Celebration of African American Sacred Music***

Saturday, January 31: Choral Workshop with Dr. G. Phillip Shoultz at United Church

Sunday, February 1: 10:00 am Worship with Dr. Shoultz, guest triologue preacher

3:00 pm Concert with FebFest Choir at St. Francis Cathedral

United Church of Santa Fe and *Coro Lux* (Albuquerque choir directed by Bradley Ellingboe) present FebFest 2026 with special guest, Dr. G. Phillip Shoultz. All day choral workshop with Dr. Shoultz (and United pianist Michelle Schumann) for singers of all backgrounds on Saturday, Jan. 31. On Sunday, Feb. 1, Dr. Shoultz directs the FebFest Choir in a free concert at St. Francis Cathedral. Dr. Shoultz will also be our guest in worship that Sunday morning. To register as a singer for the Saturday workshop and Sunday concert, please go to [abqcorolux.org](http://abqcorolux.org). Also, the Sunday afternoon concert at St. Francis Cathedral includes a freewill offering to support the new Santa Fe Faith Coalition for Immigration and the Albuquerque Road Runner Food Bank. Plan to come—and spread the word! For more info, please call 505-988-3295.

***God's Glory!***

***Mardi Gras Sunday – Jazz and Gospel Service – Feb. 15***

After Peter, James, and John make it to the top of a high mountain with Jesus, the three disciples see him in all his glory. (Matthew 17:1-9) "Sunlight poured from his face." Not surprisingly, they want to stay in that mountaintop glory, but God tells them to listen to Jesus, which means they need to follow where he leads—which is down from the mountain to offer God's light, life, and hope to others. Guided by guest jazz pianist Andy Kingston, we'll take that journey, too. Bring a friend to our annual, toe-tapping Mardi Gras service!