

**A Service of the Word and Sacrament
for
The Second Sunday of Epiphany
and
Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday
January 15, 2023**

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

For Reflection:

I say to you, seek God and discover God and make God a power in your life. Without God all of our efforts turn to ashes and our sunrises into darkest nights. Without God, life is a meaningless drama with the decisive scenes missing. But with God, we are able to rise from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope. With God, we are able to rise from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Music for Gathering

*Tak (Gratitude) Op.62 No.2
How Brightly Shines the Morning Star (Wie Schön Leuchtet)*

Edvard Grieg
Phillip Nicolai

*Introit

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Siyahamba

(The choir sings first verse in Zulu, then congregation rises to join in English verses.)

***We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching (ooo), we are marching (ooo), we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching (ooo), we are marching (ooo), we are marching in the light of God.***

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

*Sharing God's Gifts and Regathering

We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God. . .

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

We've Come This Far by Faith

Albert Goodson

The Call to Worship from Jesus' Beatitudes (**congregation in bold**)

Come and worship, you who know your need of God, for you are the light of the world!

¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!

¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!

Come and worship, all who mourn.

¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!

Come and worship, all the meek, the gentle, the quiet and the kind.

¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!

Come and worship, you who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!

Come and worship, you who are merciful and pure in heart.

¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!

Come and worship, all the peacemakers and those who work for justice.

¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!

God calls us to be *la luz del mundo!* Let us claim that call and sing our faith.

*Hymn

436

God of Grace and God of Glory (1-3)

Harry Emerson Fosdick/Cwm Rhondda

(After the hymn, children and younger youth are invited to engage "Martin's Big Words.")

WE PREPARE

In A Prayer of Invocation (attr. to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, adapted from a prayer by Sir Francis Drake)

Disturb us, O Lord

**when we are too well-pleased with ourselves,
when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,
because we sailed too close to the shore.**

Disturb us, O Lord

**when with the abundance of things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for the water of life;
when, having fallen in love with time,
we have ceased to dream of eternity;
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.**

Stir us, O Lord

**to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas
where storms show Thy mastery,
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
In the name of the One who pushed back the horizons of our hopes
and invited the brave to follow. Amen**

In a Time of Silent Prayer

In an Affirmation of Faith

*In a Song of Praise

God of Grace and God of Glory

Cwm Rhondda

*Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.*

WE ENGAGE GOD'S WORD

John Recognizes Jesus

John 1:29-42

The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one of whom I said, 'After me comes one 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." 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, 'The one 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 of God."

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

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

African American Spiritual

*Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart.
In my heart (in my heart), in my heart (in my heart).
Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart.*

Lord, I want to be like Jesus, in my heart, in my heart . . .

Time of Silence

Anthem

Walk in the Light

André Thomas

WE RESPOND

Renewing Our Vows of Baptism

*The Promises of the Congregation

Is it your desire to renew the vows of your baptism?

It is my desire.

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life God offers?

With God's help, yes.

Do you promise, by the grace of God in the year ahead, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the love and work of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith, to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and faithful member of Christ's church, as together we celebrate God's presence and further God's mission of love and justice in all the world?

I promise, with the help of God.

Finally, as we bless this water of baptism, will you give thanks for God's gift of water in all ways and re-commit yourself to the wise use of this sacred resource for the sake of generations yet to come?

I promise, with the help of God.

*The Prayer of Blessing for the Water and Our Lives

O Fount of every blessing, we give you thanks for drawing creation from the well of your goodness, and for pouring out your love on all who thirst for good news.

We confess that we are thirsty, too, and we long to drink deeply.

Hear our prayers for your waters of new life.

(A time of silent prayer)

Wash over us with your living water.

If our lives have become shallow, deepen them.

If our ideals have dried up, revive them.

If our priorities have become confused, clarify them.

If our horizons have become too narrow, widen them.

Hear our prayers for your waters of new life.

(A time of silent prayer)

Hear also our prayers for your people—the loved ones we hold in our hearts

and our sisters and brothers in the whole human family.*(You are invited to name aloud the names of people or places.)*

Bless by your Word and Spirit this water of new life.

Bless us by that same Word and Spirit to become new life for others.

Soak us in your presence. Drench us with your love.

Release us from all that burdens us, and refresh us with your life-changing mercy.

In the name of our baptized Savior, we pray as he taught, with boldness, courage, and trust, saying:

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

The Sacrament of Renewal 325

Child of Blessing

Stuttgart

Prayer of Thanksgiving

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn

570

We Shall Overcome (1-4)

U.S. Traditional

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

We Shall Overcome

U.S. Traditional

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

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!

We're glad you've joined in worship and hope you'll share in upcoming programs and outreach ministries. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Jessie Lo, Pianist; the Sanctuary Choir; Steve Hamilton and June Yoder, Liturgists and Readers; and Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez.

Today in Children's and Younger Youth Ministry – *Martin's Big Words*

We'll watch a video about the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the words he used that changed the world—like justice, faith, freedom, equality, peace, hope, and love. We'll also make a poster to share with the congregation how those words help us to “Love God, Neighbor, and Creation.” Younger youth are also invited to share in worship this morning.

Adult Forum: *Intro to United's Advocacy Day – Today at 11:15 am*

On Jan. 30, United members and friends are invited to join in “Advocacy Day” at the “Roundhouse” aka the New Mexico State Legislature. Meet with Outreach Chair Marilyn Gardner and Talitha Arnold today for more information and sign up!

Women's Study Group – This Wednesday (10:00 am)

We continue our discussion of Serhii Plokhyy's *The Gates of Europe: History of Ukraine*. (Barbara MacPhee, 504-232-6670)

Resiliency and Hope: Biblical Stories for Our Time

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

This ongoing study explores Biblical characters who overcame hardships of all kinds. All welcome!

Youth Initiates Lead Worship Next Sunday (Jan. 22)

To overcome the powerlessness we can feel with many world issues, our Youth Initiates (8th/9th graders) explored *intercessory prayer*, when we lift up to God the needs and concerns of others. They researched the United Nations' “Global Sustainable Goals” and wrote prayers to support those who struggle. Next Sunday, they share their prayers.

UPCOMING ADULT FORUMS (11:15 am after Sunday worship)

- **January 22: *Housing, Homelessness, and Ways to Help*** – As the former Director of St. Elizabeth Shelter and of New Mexico Coalition for the Homeless, United member and SF County Commissioner Hank Hughes knows a lot about the people and issues of homelessness and housing. We're fortunate to be able to learn from his experiences and insights.
- **January 29: “Get to Know United!”** To learn more about the United Church of Santa Fe and the United Church of Christ, come to this Newcomers' Gathering. It's also a chance to meet new friends. To RSVP, please write unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or sign up in the Community Room.

United Church Advocacy Day at the State Legislature – Monday, Jan. 30

Join in United's annual Advocacy Day focused on homelessness, environmental concerns, immigration, and prevention of gun violence. We meet at the church at 8:30 for a brief orientation, then carpool to the Capitol to visit our legislators and end with lunch at a local restaurant. The more participants the more legislators we can visit! Please RSVP to Marilyn Gardner (505-331-6600, mjg1230@comcast.net) by Jan. 22. Information packets sent to registrants prior to Jan. 30.

Can You Pray for a Child Once a Day?

United's Prayer Child program matches children and youth with adults who promise to pray for them every day. If you'd like to be a “Pray-er,” please contact Talitha Arnold (505-988-3295). Thanks!

Talitha Arnold is on study leave this week through Tuesday, January 24. If a pastoral need arises, please call Office Administrator Lin Raymond at the church office (505-988-3295) or the Caregiver on Call (John Shaffer, 505-466-4372). Also, the church office is closed Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

United's Sanctuary Choir sings Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with New Mexico Philharmonic

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023 – 6:00 pm

United's Sanctuary Choir, together with Albuquerque's *Coro Lux*, joins forces with the New Mexico Philharmonic in Beethoven's magnificent Ninth Symphony, including the choral finale known as “Ode to Joy.” The concert is one night only, in UNM's Popejoy Hall, Sat., Feb. 11, 6:00 pm. Tx: nmphil.org/event/the-greatest-beethovens-9th-february-11-2023/

“Way Down in Beulah Lan” —Celebration of African American Sacred Music

FebFest 2023 with nationally-known conductor Dr. André Thomas

Choral Workshop – Sat. Feb. 4 and Concert—Sun. Feb. 3 (3:00 pm)

Once again United Church and *Coro Lux* (the Albuquerque choir directed by Bradley Ellingboe) offer FebFest, an annual celebration of African American Sacred Music traditions. This year's is the biggest and best one yet! Our special guest is Dr. André Thomas, composer, conductor, president of the American Choral Directors Association, and Associate Artist/Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra. The event is open to all interested singers. Saturday rehearsals and workshops are Sat., Feb. 4 (at United church, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm). The festival choir's work culminates in a free concert at The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis at 3:00 pm Sun., Feb. 5, with a free-will offering to benefit Habitat for Humanity. To join in as a singer, go to abqcorolux.org/tickets/ to register. The cost of in-person workshop is \$75 (Online is \$50—but in-person is best!). Cost includes sheet music, Saturday lunch, workshops, rehearsals—and the chance to sing with one of the nation's top conductors. Come and bring a friend!