

**A Service of the Word  
for  
The Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**September 29, 2024 – 10:00 A.M.**

The United Church of Santa Fe  
A United Church of Christ

**For Reflection:**

Not long ago I was a guest on *Real Time with Bill Maher*, with one of America's most prominent atheists. Wearing my clerical collar, I realized that I stood out among his guests. So I decided to announce to Bill that I, too, am an atheist. He seemed taken aback, so I explained that if we were talking about the God who hates poor people, immigrants, and gay folks, I don't believe in that God either. Sometimes it helps to clarify our language.

Rev. William J. Barber II,

*The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*

**WE GATHER**

Music for Gathering

\*Introit

***I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me***  
*(\*Please rise in body or spirit)*

African American Spiritual



1. I'm gon-na live so God can use me an-y - time, Lord, and an-y - where.  
2. I'm gon-na pray so God can use me an-y - time, Lord, and an-y - where.  
3. I'm gon-na sing so God can use me an-y - time, Lord, and an-y - where.



I'm gon-na live so God can use me an-y - time, Lord, and an-y - where.  
I'm gon-na pray so God can use me an-y - time, Lord, and an-y - where.  
I'm gon-na sing so God can use me an-y - time, Lord, and an-y - where.

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing and Regathering

***I'm Gonna Live***

***I'm gonna work so God can use me, any time, Lord, and anywhere.  
I'm gonna work so God can use me, any time, Lord, and anywhere.***

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

*God's Eye Is on the Sparrow*

Martin/Gabriel

The Call to Worship from the Prophet Isaiah

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, because the Lord has anointed us to bring good tidings to the afflicted.

**God has sent us to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;**

To grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit;

**That they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that God may be glorified.**

Let us sing praise to God!

\*Hymn

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***Sweet, Sweet Spirit***

Doris Akers

## WE PREPARE

\*Prayer of Invocation from the Lakota Sacred Tradition (United Church of Christ Book of Worship)

### Grandfather Great Spirit

All over the world the faces of the living ones are alike  
With tenderness they have come up out of the ground.  
Look upon your children that they may face the winds  
And walk the good road to the Day of Quiet.

### Grandmother Great Spirit

Fill us with the Light.  
Give us the strength to understand  
And the eyes to see.  
Teach us to walk the soft Earth as relatives to all that live. Amen.

\*Time of Silent Prayer

\*In Our Song of Praise

### *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Doris Akers

*Sweet holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;  
And for these blessings, we lift our hearts in praise.  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
when we shall leave this place.*

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## The Receiving of New Members

Words of Welcome from the United Church of Christ *Book of Worship*

**By your baptism, you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith, which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.**

### Four Questions of the Candidates

- Affirmation of Baptismal Vows
- Promise to choose God's way of life over the world's ways of death
- Commitment to personal discipleship and growth in faith
- Commitment to the covenantal community

### \*Questions of the Congregation

You have heard the affirmation of these people. Will you now welcome them into the common life of this church? Will you promise them your friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and ministry of this community of faith?

**We promise with the help of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in that knowledge and love of God and be witness of Jesus' ways of hope and justice in our world.**

### \*Sharing the Covenant of the United Church of Santa Fe

**In the Lord's name we gather together here in Santa Fe  
to worship and grow in the Christian tradition,  
to minister in love to all persons,  
to strive for justice and peace,  
to respond to God's word.**

**We celebrate the heritage of Santa Fe and give  
ourselves to its challenges and opportunities.**

**We endeavor to live in harmony with all creation  
as stewards of the earth.**

**We share in the life and mission of the United Church of Christ  
and of Christians everywhere.**

**To these purposes we unite and covenant with God and one another,  
watchful for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

### \*A Prayer of Blessing and Laying On of Hands

\*Singing and Signing the Covenant

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*What a Covenant*

Elisha A. Hoffman/Leaning

## WE ENGAGE GOD'S WORD

Seventy Prophets—and Two Outliers

Numbers 11:24-30

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

A Disciple's Question

Mark 9:38-39

Then the disciple named John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward."

Hymn

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*This Little Light of Mine* (1-2)

African American Spiritual

A Reflection

*Who'll Be a Witness?*

Silent Reflection

Musical Response

*Witness*

Spiritual/arr. Jack Halloran

## WE RESPOND

Musical Call to Prayer

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

Doris Akers

Refrain: *Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

*I am weak and I need thy strength and power to help me over my weakest hour;  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.* [Refrain]

*I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without thy light to see;  
Lord, just always let me thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.* [Refrain]

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Prayers of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

At the end of each petition, the leader will say, "God in your mercy." The congregation responds with the refrain:

*Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

*(We conclude the Intercessory Prayer time with the Lord's Prayer. Please pray any version.)*

## WE GO IN PEACE

\*Hymn

*God's Counting on Me, God's Counting on You*

Pete Seeger and Lorre Wyatt

*When we look and we see things are not what they should be,  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you.*

*When we look and we see things are not what they should be,  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you.*

*Hopin' we'll all pull through, hopin' we'll all pull through,  
Hopin' we'll all pull through, me and you.*

*It's time to turn things around, trickle up not trickle down,  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you.  
It's time to turn things around, trickle up not trickle down,  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you.  
Hopin' we'll all pull through, hopin' we'll all pull through,  
Hopin' we'll all pull through, me and you.*

*Don't give up don't give in, workin' together we all can win,  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you.  
Don't give up don't give in, workin' together we all can win,  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you.  
Hopin' we'll all pull through, hopin' we'll all pull through,  
Hopin' we'll all pull through, me and you.*

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

*God's Counting on Me, God's Counting on You*

Seeger/Wyatt

*What we do, you and me, will affect eternity,  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you.  
What we do, you and me, will affect eternity,  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you.  
Hopin' we'll all pull through, hopin' we'll all pull through,  
Hopin' we'll all pull through, me and you.  
Hopin' we'll all pull through, hopin' we'll all pull through,  
Hopin' we'll all pull through, me and you.*

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### ***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!

#### **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!

Sharing worship leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Moderator Sarah Sawtell; Andy Kingston, Guest Pianist; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; the Sanctuary Choir; Sarah Sawtell, Dusty Caruso Liturgists; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez. You were greeted by Kimberly Zeilik, Blanca Surgeon, Alan Surgeon, Pam Hyde, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata.

We welcome six new members today (Michael O'Neill, Dusty and Catherine Caruso, Dana and David Cagle, Laurie Romero). Please extend your blessing and keep the new members in prayer as we live and grow together in faith. We'll receive new members again on November 17. Please let Rev. Talitha Arnold or Discipleship Chair Diane Darby know of your interest.

#### ***Children's Ministry***

So they can also enjoy today's toe-tapping music, our younger members are invite to join Children's Ministry Aide Maria Navarette in the "Pray-Ground" area of the Sanctuary.

#### **Today's Forum – Kits for Gaza and Ukraine and Letters to U.S. Leaders**

Following up on the powerful presentation by "Roots," the Palestinian Israeli peace initiative in the West Bank, this forum offers two ways to help those caught in the crossfire of war:

1. Help assemble 100 hygiene kits to send to Church World Service for refugees of the wars in Gaza and Ukraine.
2. Write letters to our national leaders regarding Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel – urging an end to the violence, supporting humanitarian over military aid, return of the hostages, and/or other actions. All welcome!

#### **HELP OUR FELLOWSHIP TIME BE ECO-FRIENDLY**

The paper goods we use for the fellowship time are compostable, so when you're done, please put them in the compost bin in the Community Room. Reunity Resources turns them into great compost. Thanks!

#### **Wednesday Women's Study Group – Oct. 2 and 16 (10:00 am)**

This week they continue reading *The Making of Biblical Womanhood* by Beth Allison Barr. All women invited. For info, please contact Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, [mommorton@gmail.com](mailto:mommorton@gmail.com)) or Jenn Wynn (817-219-0707, [home@wynnes.us](http://home@wynnes.us)).

#### ***Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls – Thursday Mornings (8:00 am) via Zoom***

Explore *The Gospel of Mark* with Talitha Arnold and United members and friends across the country. Sign up at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com) or speak with Talitha for more information.

***NEXT SUNDAY IS ST. FRANCIS SUNDAY***

***Ask the Animals – Pet Blessing and Outdoor Worship  
St. Francis Sunday – October 6 (Next Sunday!)***



“But ask the animals, and they will teach you,” Job told his friends who had come to help him in his troubles. (Job 12:2) Given the less-than-helpful advice those friends offered (i.e., that his suffering was due to his sin), it’s no wonder Job turned to God’s other creatures for solace and wisdom. It’s a perfect text for our annual Pet Blessing. Bring your critters (on a leash, in a carrier, or as a picture). Invite your friends and their critters, too!

***Adult Forum: A Solar Tour – Next Sunday, October 6 (11:15 am)***

From the adobe Trombe wall in United’s original sanctuary to the multitude of windows throughout the building to the solar panels and EV car charge outside, United Church has relied on the power of the sun to reduce our carbon footprint and “love God by loving Creation.” We invite you to take a “solar tour” inside and outside United, as we join in the “Great American Solar Tour!”

***WAYS TO LOVE CREATION***

***United’s Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change (and Climate Disasters)***

Mitigate the carbon you put into the air through United’s “**Carbon Offset Program**” that supports climate advocacy of *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and hands-on work of *Tree New Mexico*. When you fly, donate \$4 for every hour in flight. If you drive, it’s \$4 per 1,000 miles. More info at: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care).

***Compost Collection—It’s a Miracle!***

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Pick up compostable garbage bags at the church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill them at home, and bring them back to put in the green bin by the Children’s Garden. More things in compost bins means less in landfills. Thanks!

