

**A Service of Word and Sacrament
for
Mardi Gras Sunday
March 2, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

For Reflection:

*When day comes, we step out of the shade,
aflame and unafraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*
Inauguration Day, 2020

Individual acts of ethical courage: spreading like wildflowers in every direction.
That is what will turn the tide: the faithful persistence of those who will not be compromised.
One by one, truth by truth, sacrifice by sacrifice, the relentless march of justice will continue,
until the abettors of chaos have no more room to maneuver.

Choctaw Elder and Episcopal Bishop Steven Charleston

WE GATHER

Music for Gathering

*Introit

When the Saints Go Marchin' In (2x)
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Traditional

***Oh, when the saints go marchin' in, Oh, when the saints go marchin' in,
Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marchin' in!*** (2x)

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing and Regathering

Shake Another Hand

Jim Strathdee

(Chorus)

***A-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia! A-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!
A-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia! A-la-la-la-la-la—le-lu-ia!***

***Shake another hand, shake the hand next to you,
shake another hand and sing this song,
Shake another hand, shake the hand next to you,
shake another hand and sing, sing this...(Chorus)***

***Pat another back, pat the back next to you,
pat another back and sing this song,
Pat another back, pat the back next to you,
pat another back and sing, sing this...(Chorus)***

***Bump another rump, bump a rump next to you,
bump another rump, and sing this song,
Bump another rump, bump a rump next to you,
bump another rump, and sing, sing this...(Chorus)***

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

Zimbabwe Hallelujah

Abraham Maraire

The Call to Worship

People of God, look around and see. Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

See the faces of those we know and love—neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers—a community of kindred hearts.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

See the faces of those we hardly know—strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

See all the images of God assembled here. In me, in you, in each of us, God's spirit shines for all to see.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

Come and see God in all the people of God. Let us sing our faith together.

*Hymn

Lead Me, Guide Me

Doris Akers

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,
 For if you lead me, I can - not stray.
 Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
 Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me. Fine
 1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my
 3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am
 1. help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me
 2. aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am
 3. blind with - out thy light to see; Lord, just
 1. through the dark - ness thy face to see,
 2. put - ting all my trust in thee.
 3. al - ways let me thy ser - vant be. D.C.
 1. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.
 2. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.
 3. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

WE PREPARE

*In A Prayer of Invocation

Eternal Spirit of the universe,

we thank you that you do not leave us alone

but place your word within us and shine your light in our life together.

You are no statue made of silver or gold,

but a living reality on the face of the earth.

As we seek to follow your way,

empower us with your presence and guide us with your light.

Let that light shine through our lives to give hope and courage to others.

We pray in your name. Amen.

*In a Time of Silent Prayer and Assurance of Grace

*In Our Song of Praise

Lead Me, Guide Me (refrain)

Doris Akers

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, Oh Lord, lead me.

(During the song, children are invited to Children's Ministry. They are also welcome to stay in the service. Either way, they rejoin the congregation for Communion.)

WE ENGAGE GOD'S WORD

A Story about Seeing Jesus' Glory (cong. bold)

Luke 9:28-35 (from The Message)

One day Jesus climbed a high mountain to pray, taking Peter, John, and James along. While he was in prayer, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became blinding white. At once two men were there talking with him. They turned out to be Moses and Elijah! What a glorious appearance they made! . . .

Meanwhile, Peter and the others were slumped over in sleep. When they came to, rubbing their eyes, they saw Jesus in his glory and the two other men. When Moses and Elijah had left, Peter blurted out, "**Jesus this is a great moment! Let's build three shrines! One for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.**"

While he was babbling on like this, a brilliant cloud enveloped them. Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying: "This is my Beloved, the Chosen! Listen to him." When the sound of the voice died away, they saw Jesus there alone. They were speechless. After they'd hiked down the mountain, they said nothing to anyone about the glory they had seen.

Anthem

Ain'a That Good News!

African American Spiritual/arr. William Dawson

A Reflection

Let That Light Shine!

Silent Reflection

Musical Response 160

Jesus, the Light of the World

Charles Wesley/adapt. George Elderkin/arr. Jeffrey Radford

WE RESPOND

Presenting Our Gifts

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Bless our tithes and offerings, O God, returned to you. Multiply and use these, and all your gifts, to bring the light of Christ's love through our lives to this community and throughout the world. Amen.

Sharing the Gift of Communion

The Story of this Feast

The Invitation to the Table

This is the joyful feast of the People of God!

¡Gracias a Dios!

Come from the north and the south, the east and the west, and gather at the table of the Lord!

¡Gracias a Dios!

Open your lives to the Light of God. Welcome one another as friends and neighbors.

¡Gracias a Dios!

So take this bread and drink from this cup. Let God feed you. Let God love you.

¡Gracias a Dios!

Prayer of Blessing and the Lord's Prayer *(Please pray any version.)*

The Bread and the Cup

(As your section is called, please come forward, receive the bread, dip it in a chalice or take a cup, and return to your seat by the next aisle. For a non-gluten wafer, please ask the server. All persons are welcome to share in this meal.)

Hymns for Communion	330	<i>Let Us Break Bread Together</i>	African American
	447	<i>Beams of Heaven as I Go</i> <i>(choir st. 1, everyone 2-3)</i>	Charles Albert Tindley
	524	<i>This Little Light of Mine</i>	African American

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

God of all Light, we thank you for leading us to this table to know communion with you and one another. As we take our leave from one another, go with us into the Lenten season ahead. Open our eyes to see your Light all around us. Open our hearts to share your Light by “doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with you.” May our journey lead us and our world to the new Light and life of Easter morning. Amen.

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn ***When the Saints Go Marchin' In*** African American

***Oh, when the saints go marchin' in; Oh, when the saints go marchin' in,
Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marchin' in!***

Oh, when the sun begins to shine . . .

Oh, when the trumpet sounds the call . . .

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction ***When the Saints Go Marchin' In*** African American

***Oh, when the saints go marchin' in; Oh, when the saints go marchin' in,
Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marchin' in!***

*Postlude

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We're glad you've joined in worship this morning, and we hope you found both the service and the community engaging and enriching. We invite you also to join in the weeks ahead as together we “love God, Neighbor, and Creation.” For more information about United, please visit our website unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Guest Pianist Andy Kingston; Director of Music Bradley Ellingboe; Liturgist (to be announced); Elijah Marquez, Social Media Coordinator with volunteer Frank Wilbanks, Videographer; and Greeters Rosemary Thompson, Blanca Surgeon, Diane Darby, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata.

Kids United Celebrate Caring for Creation (10:00)

United's Kids begin the service with the congregation, then go to Children's Ministry to “Celebrate Caring for Creation” with Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.

Reading Bonhoeffer in America 2025
Adult Forum Series Concludes Today

Even if you haven't had a chance to join in Larry Rasmussen's powerful class on the work and witness of German Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, you're invited to the final session today after worship. Handouts in Community Room. Many thanks to Larry for this profound and all-too-relevant series.

Wednesday Women's Study Group (March 5 – 10:00 am)

We continue our study of *James* by Percival Everett. All women welcome! (Jenn Wynn: 817-219-0707, home@wynnes.us; Cheryl Morton: 515-240-4523, MomMorton@gmail.com)

"All Church Family Supper" – Next Friday, March 7 (5:30 pm)

A chance to meet United's new "Family, Youth and Children's Director" (via Zoom).

Parents, kids, youth—plus all other adults—break bread (actually burritos) together and then meet Dana Bender (who starts Palm Sunday). Please sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or at church. And please bring family-size cans of soup or stew for the Food Depot.

Thank You to All Who are Helping Close United's Deficit

Due to unforeseen challenges (and opportunities), United's 2025 Operating Budget that was approved last Sunday had a \$29,000 deficit (even with "borrowing" from the church's cash reserves and endowment). Thanks to the generosity and commitment of many members and friends, that has been reduced to \$7,000. You can help! If you haven't made a pledge for 2025, please do so. If you have and can increase it by 4% to 5%, or whatever amount you can, together we can close the gap. Thank you!

New Members Welcomed
Second Sunday of Lent – March 16

We'll receive new members into the United Church community on the Second Sunday of Lent (March 16). If you're interested in joining, please speak with Talitha Arnold (505-988-3295). Thanks! (If the date doesn't work for you, please let her know that, too. Thanks.)

Can You Help Hang a Banner? Arrange Flowers? Carry a Ladder?

If your answer is "yes," the Sacred Space Team welcomes—and needs—you! They're the great group who arrange the Sanctuary. They welcome your help either monthly or seasonally. Let them know you'd like to help! (Donna Clark, 505-490-9840; Chisty Jones, 505-204-6867, Cindy Knox, 620-966-1822)

Extend United's Welcome as Greeters or Ushers

Come at 9:30 for the 10:00 service and be the first in line to welcome people to United. It's simple—and it's central to who we want to be as a church community. Sign up on Sunday morning or contact Membership Development Chair Diane Darby (816-260-0127) Thanks!

At United, we seek to "Love God, Neighbor, Creation" in a whole lot of ways. . . .

Support for Ukrainian and Central American refugees, reducing our carbon impact, emergency funds for our Diné/Navajo neighbors, and more! Go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to find out how you can help. Thank you!

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 back to put in the green bin by the Children's Garden. More things in compost bins means less in landfills. (Also at church, **please put coffee cups and napkins in compost cans in the Community Room.**) Thanks!

Care for Creation and Offset Your Carbon Use

United's "Carbon Offset Program" helps plant trees and change policies to address climate change. It's simple to do: track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to our partners *Tree New Mexico* and *NM Interfaith Power and Light*. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care. (In 2024, United donated \$3,300, part of which came from individuals and the other part from the church's operating budget to offset carbon use of staff mileage.)

***A Place Called Home* by Bradley Ellingboe and Tony Silvestri**
New Mexico Premiere – Saturday, April 12, 4:00 pm – Save the Date!

A Place Called Home is a dramatic cantata Bradley Ellingboe wrote in 2022. It was premiered in Carnegie Hall in April of 2023 and the combined choruses of our Sanctuary Choir and Coro Lux will give the New Mexican premiere at the Lensic Theater on Saturday, April 12 of this year, thanks largely to the sponsorship of our church, for renting the hall, and the NM State Arts Council, for underwriting the cost of the soloists and instrumentalists.

Where's Home? **Lent at United**

Lent starts in the wilderness across the Jordan and leads to the wilderness of Golgotha. It also challenges us to find our home all along the way—whether within our own souls, our nation, or our Earth home. In both worship and adult faith formation this Lent, we're invited to consider our own understandings of "home," especially how to love and care for our Earth home. Our Lenten focus also leads to the April 12 Lentic concert (sponsored by the United Church) of Brad Ellingboe's cantata "A Place Called Home," the afternoon before Palm Sunday.

WORSHIP IN LENT

Cleaning House

Ash Wednesday – This Wednesday (March 5)
12:00 Noon and 7:00 pm (with choir and childcare)

"Is this not the fast I choose," God asked through the Prophet Isaiah, "to feed the hungry and clothe the naked?" (Isaiah 58) To do that, we may need to clean house—at least spiritually. "Create in me a clean heart," the Psalmist calls, "and renew a right Spirit within me." We do that on Ash Wednesday, turning to ashes things that keep us from God's new life.

The Wilderness is Home

First Lent (March 9) – and First Day of Daylight Savings—Spring Ahead!

Three of the four Gospels tell of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, where he was with the wild beasts and "tempted by Satan." But only Luke's Gospel (4:1-13) says that at the end of that time, Satan "departed from him until an opportune time"—meaning that for Jesus, the wilderness was everywhere. Or put another way, the wilderness was his home. Perhaps it is for us as well.

Midweek Communion in Lent – Wednesdays (12:15 pm to 12:45 pm)

Do you yearn for silence or an opportunity to breathe, pray, replenish? Starting Wednesday, March 12, United offers a **Lenten Noontime Communion (12:15- 12:45)**. All welcome to recharge and renew. (Through Holy Week: April 16).

ADULT FAITH FORMATION IN LENT

SUNDAY FORUMS

A Place Called Home – March 9

In preparation for the New Mexico premier of Bradley Ellingboe's environmental cantata "A Place Called Home" (Sat., April 12, 4:00 pm, Lentic), Brad and the lyricist Tony Silvestri share the background of both its poetry and music.

Changed for Good!

Reunity Resources Composting Program – March 16

Juliana Ciano, Program Director of Reunity Resources (one of United's environmental partners) is our guest to share Reunity's wide-ranging programs (gardening with kids, musical events, support for public schools, etc.) that go far beyond composting.

Living in One's Holy Land — March 23

The holy lands of the Bible are half a world away. As Christians, we share sacred stories set in Jerusalem, Nazareth or the Judean wilderness—but we don't live there. In contrast, United member Mary Hasbah Roessel grew up in Round Rock, Arizona, in the Navajo/Dine homeland, filled with such sacred places as Spider Woman's Rock and the four sacred mountains. How does our relationship with the land change if our sacred stories take place in the sacred land we call home?

Other Study Opportunities

Sacred Nature: Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World by Karen Armstrong

Lenten Book Study: 5:30 pm – Wednesdays (Mar. 12, 19, 26, Apr. 2, 9)

Historian of religion Karen Armstrong explores how recognizing our connection to—not separation from—nature is essential to taking effective action to care for creation. We'll read and discuss the importance of finding ways to experience nature imaginatively and aesthetically, rather than only scientifically and rationally, to help us meet modern challenges by changing our hearts and minds. Sign up in Community Room (Joan Snider, 505-424-3732)

Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of Mark – Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MT) on Zoom

This Zoom study started during the pandemic. Five years later, we still need the "Resiliency and Hope" of our Biblical faith. Through Lent, we conclude the Gospel of Mark with the Holy Week story—God's love and life overcoming fear and death. It's a story we need in this time, too. All welcome! Register/Info: unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Into the Deep – 2025 Lenten Daily Devotional Booklets Available

To deepen your own journey of Lent, please pick up a copy of the Lenten Daily Devotional Booklet, published by the national United Church of Christ that includes reflections from UCC leaders around the country (including ones by Talitha Arnold). Then join with others in Lent's daily walk to Easter's new life.