



**A Service of the Word  
for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide**

**April 26, 2026  
10:00 A.M.**

**The United Church of Santa Fe  
A United Church of Christ**

**For Reflection:**

Easter is a "Season" not a day, 50 days from Easter Sunday until the Feast of Pentecost (May 24, this year). Today is the 21<sup>st</sup> Day of Easter, 29 more to go! In the Season of Easter we are "seasoned" as it were with the gift of understanding what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Today (from the Gospel of John) we learn that Jesus is: ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός (Greek), *der gute Hirte* (Lutherbibel, German), *el buen pastor* (Reina-Valera, Spanish), *le bon berger* (La Bible, French), *den gode herden* (Bibel 2000, Swedish), *pastor bonus* (Vulgate), *il buon pastore* (La Sacra Bibbia), the Good Shepherd!

**WE GATHER**

Gathering Music/Prelude

*Voices of Spring  
Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Christian Sinding  
Bradbury/arr. Keveren

\*Introit

***Goodness Is Stronger than Evil*** (2x) Archbishop Desmond Tutu/John Bell  
*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than hate;  
light is strong-er than dark - ness; life is strong-er than death.  
Vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours through God who loves us.  
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Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing God's Good News

***Christ is Risen ! Risen indeed!***

***Christós anésti. Alithós anésti!***

***Beauty is restored! Restored indeed!***

Regathering

***Goodness Is Stronger than Evil*** (1x)

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

*My Shepherd Will Provide My Need*

Isaac Watts/Southern Harmony  
arr. Virgil Thomson

## The Call to Worship (cong. bold)

As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,

**so God seeks and saves the lost.**

Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,

**so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.**

As a father welcomes a returning wayward son,

**so God welcomes us, and lets the past be past.**

Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received.

**Let us receive, welcome, and give thanks for one another  
and for the One who gives us life together.**

\*Hymn            252                    *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us* (English verses)            Dorothy Thrupp/Bradbury

## WE PREPARE

Call to Prayer

*23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm*

Bobby McFerrin

A Prayer of Trust and Thanksgiving from the Psalms (unison)

**You are my shepherd; I have everything I need.**

**You make me lie down in green pastures;**

**You lead me beside the still waters;**

**You restore my soul.**

**You lead me in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil; for you are with me;**

**Your rod and your staff they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;**

**You anoint my head with oil;**

**My cup overflows.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;**

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

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

\*Our Song of Praise    479                    *God Is My Shepherd* (1-2)            Scottish Psalter/Brother James Air

*(During the hymn, children through 5th grade are invited to Kids United to explore different ways to pray.)*

## WE ENGAGE

The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-10

"Very truly, I tell you," said Jesus, "anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Hymn            248                    *Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows* (1-3)    Henry W. Baker/John B. Dykes

Sermon

*Shepherd of the Sheep*

Silent Reflection

Musical Response    248                    *Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows* (4-6)            Dominus Regit Me

## WE RESPOND

### The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God of our lives and all life,  
in this time of prayer, open us even more deeply to your presence.

Good Shepherd God, we thank you for leading us to this time together.

We thank you for making us rest in your Word  
and refreshing our lives with your Spirit.

And we thank you for all the ways you have guided us, protected us,  
shepherded us even in this past week.

Hear our prayers of thanks.

*(silent prayer)*

We thank you, too, for the Good Shepherds  
who have appeared in our lives in so many different ways  
and who have given of their lives to give us new life.

We lift their names to you. Hear our prayers of thanks.

*(silent prayer)*

Shepherd of All, we confess that we often feel like your other creatures—  
afraid, uncertain, confused.

We pray for ourselves and others:

Deliver us and this world from the insanity of violence and war.

Deliver us from indifference and hatred.

Guide us in the right direction.

Strengthen our faith in you and our love for your people.

Hear our prayers for your presence.

*(silent prayer)*

We pray, too, that you would open our eyes and hearts to those who suffer around us—

To our sisters and brothers who go to bed hungry or who have no beds,

To refugees and immigrants separated from their families,

To those who are unemployed

and those whose work is difficult and dangerous.

Give us the courage and commitment to be the Good Shepherds you call us to be,

To love this world and your people as you so love.

Hear our prayers for that courage and commitment.

*(silent prayer)*

We pray all this in the name of the One we know as the Good Shepherd, who showed us your love for all  
people, for all creation, who laid down his life for others, and who taught us to pray with boldness, courage,  
and trust, saying . . . *(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.)*

Offering Our Gifts

*Sheep May Safely Graze*

J.S. Bach

Prayer of Dedication

## WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn	247	<i>My Shepherd Is the Living God</i> (1-2)	Isaac Watts/Consolation
*Benediction			
*Musical Benediction	247	<i>My Shepherd Is the Living God</i> (3)	Isaac Watts/Consolation

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### **WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!**

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. Your presence enriches the experience of us all. We also invite you to join in our education and service offerings, today and in the week ahead. Again, welcome!

We welcome Rev. Benjamin Larzelere as our guest preacher this morning. Ben is a retired Lutheran Pastor, who served Santa Fe's Christ Lutheran Church for almost 40 years. He and his wife, Bev, have both been leaders in the wider Santa Fe community through their commitment to Jesus' way of justice and love. They joined the United Church of Santa Fe in 2013 but had been supporters and encouragers of this congregation since United first gathered in 1979.

Also sharing leadership are Michelle Schumann, Music Director/Pianist; Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministries; Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; Sam Elkind, Liturgist; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez, and Media Volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Louise Cavatta, Blanca Surgeon, Diane Darby, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

In *Kids United*, children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to go with Family Ministry Director Dana Bender and Children's Ministry Assistants Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz to explore different ways to pray.

Rev. Talitha Arnold is at the Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ at the Good Shepherd Church UCC in Sahuarita, Arizona. She returns on Wednesday.

**Santa Fe Ecumenical Conversations Towards Nuclear Disarmament  
Tomorrow, April 27, 2026 – 6:00 – 8:00 pm – Our Lady of Peace Room  
Santa Maria de la Paz Catholic Community**

Our April meeting is focused on finding places where we can present our Adult and/or Youth videos on the topic so that we can do the hard work of initiating and continuing positive and proactive conversations on this difficult topic. All are welcome to join us to help develop our educational plans for this year and to discern if God is calling you to join this work of peace.

***ADULT FORUM SERIES***

***The Climate: Social, Material, Moral-Spiritual***

**Sunday Forums: April 26, May 3 and 10 with Larry Rasmussen**

More than the planet's material climate is changing. So, too, is the social and moral-spiritual context and climate. These three forums, led by Environmental Ethicist Larry Rasmussen (Professor Emeritus – Union Seminary), address where we are, how we got here, and what our constructive responses might be.

***The Material (or Planetary) Climate (Today – 11:15 am)***

“Climate change” is a symptom of more far-reaching, and more consequential, changes. Most neglected, and most important (for New Mexico!), are changes to and in the oceans.

***The Social and Moral-Spiritual Climate (May 3)***

What happens to the planetary climate intimately impacts society, and vice versa. This week, our attention goes to the moral-spiritual challenges to Christianity. They are deep, since they reach back to the nation's founding and now find a new intensity and influence in the Christian nationalism of several national officeholders.

***The Climate at This Moment (May 10)***

Participants will sit as jurors for three cases rendering decisions about what should now be done for the comprehensive climate-social, moral-spiritual, and material.

**Wednesday Women's Study Group – May 6 (10:00 am)**

We are honored to have writer Deborah Jackson Taffa, Director of the MFA creative writing program at the Institute of American Indian Arts, join us as we begin discussing her memoir *Whiskey Tender*. All welcome. Please let us know if you would like to attend the session. Cheryl Morton ([MomMorton@gmail.com](mailto:MomMorton@gmail.com)), Jenn Wynne ([home@wynnes.us](mailto:home@wynnes.us))

**Santa Fe River Cleanup – Saturday, May 9 (8:30-10:00 am)**

Help care for a corner of Creation where Closson St. ends at the river. Donuts, coffee, trash bags provided. Wear a hat, sunscreen, gloves. Grabbers also helpful. Sign up today: call 505-988-3295 or email [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com). Thanks!

From supporting Santa Fe's Shelters to helping our Diné/Navajo kindred to advocating for immigrants and refugees, United Church of Santa Fe offers multiple ways to love our neighbors near and far. **Go online to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org) to find more information and donate online (or send a check to 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe, NM 87505).**

**Somos Un Pueblo Unido: May Day March & Rally for Immigrants – Friday, May 1**

Join *Somos Un Pueblo Unido* for International Workers' Day march and rally. **March: 4:30 pm** behind **Greer Garson Theater** (1600 St. Michaels Dr.). **Rally: 6:00 pm** at **General Franklin E. Miles Park** (1027 Camino Carlo Rey).

**Love in Action Arts Camp – United Church – June 15-19 (9:00 to 3:00)**

Looking for a fun and valuable day camp for elementary-age children? Sign up for United's *Love in Action Arts Camp*! **The cost is \$125 per camper for the entire week and includes lunch and snacks.** (Scholarships also available.) Children will explore kindness, belonging, and caring for the earth through biblical stories, music, art, drama, photography, cooking, and more! We have a robust and talented group of leaders for this camp. Please go to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org) to register! Questions? Please contact Director of Family Ministry Dana Bender ([unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com)).