

A SERVICE OF THE WORD
11th Sunday of Pentecost

August 9, 2026 – 10:00 A.M.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

For Reflection

*May the Lord Bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
May God give you grace not to sell yourselves short,
Grace to risk something big for something good,
Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth,
and too small for anything but love.
May God take your minds and think through them.
May God take your lips and speak through them.
May God take your hands and work through them.
May God take your hearts and set them on fire.*

Rev. William Sloane Coffin
Annual Blessing for Incoming Freshmen at Yale University

WE GATHER

(As the Prelude starts, please enter a time of silent reflection and prayer. Also, please turn off your cell phone. Thank you.)

Prelude *Be Still, My Soul* Sibelius/arr. Marcia Wells
Come Down, O Love Divine Vaughan Williams/arr. Gene Robertson

*Introit *Circle of Life* (2x) Marty Haugen
*One great circle of life, living circle of love, plants and trees, seas and rivers, and the blessed sky above,
Creatures great, creatures small, one the web that weaves us all, in the circle of life.*

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Sharing Our Life and Ministry and Breathing in God's Spirit of Peace, Hope, and Love

Blessing of Students and Educators

Sharing God's Spirit **May the Spirit be with you!**

*Regathering and Welcoming Visitors *Circle of Life* (1x) Marty Haugen

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship *Diademata* George J. Elvey

The Call to Worship from Psalm 85 (congregation in bold)

Let us hear what God the Lord will speak,
for God will speak peace to the people,
to those who turn to the Lord in their hearts.
**Surely God's grace is at hand for those who are in awe,
that God's glory may dwell in our land.**
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
**Righteousness will go before God,
and will make a path that is the holy way.**
Come, people, sing God's praise and follow God's ways.

*Hymn 8 *Praise to the Living God* (vss. 1-3) Curtis Beach/Diademata

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation by Howard Thurman (20th c. African American Theologian)

O Holy God,
**open unto us
light for our darkness,
courage for our fear,
hope for our despair.**

O God of peace,
**open unto us
peace for our turmoil,
joy for our sorrow,
strength for our weakness.**

O loving God,
**open unto us
wisdom for our confusion,
forgiveness for our sins,
love for our hate.**

O generous God,
**open our hearts
to receive all your gifts,
to be the people you need us to be,
to do the work you need us to do. Amen.**

In a Time of Silent Prayer and Assurance of Grace

*In Song

Praise to the Living God

Curtis Beach/Diademata

*Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.*

(After the song, children in grades K-5 are invited to *Kids United* with Family Minister Dana Bender for music, prayer, and stories. Nursery care and ministry with infants through kindergarteners offered by Tracy Church and Maria Navarette in the Nurture Center.)

WE ENGAGE

Elijah in the Wilderness

I Kings 19:3-14

(When Elijah heard of the king and queen's plans), he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, ... he went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."

Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. An angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, lest the journey be too much for you."

Elijah got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

And there he came to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, ... and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." And God said, "Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord."

And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Hymn 488 *Be Still, My Soul* (vss. 1-2)

Katharina von Schlegel/Jean Sibelius/Finlandia

Sermon

What Voice Do You Listen For?

Silence

Musical Response 360

Thuma Mina (Send Me Lord)

South African Traditional

(Choir sings first verses Zulu, then congregation joins in on all English verses.)

WE RESPOND

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (please pray any version)

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

Blessings for the Journey

Derek Darby, Bailey Gordon, Weston Puglisi

*Hymn 81

God Be with You (vss.1-3)

Jeremiah Rankin/William G. Tomer

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction 81

God Be with You (vs.4)

Jeremiah Rankin/William G. Tomer

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 in the week ahead. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Music Director/Pianist; Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministries; Derek Darby, Liturgist; the "Drop-in Choir," directed by André García-Nuthmann. You were greeted by Ministers of Hospitality Louise Cavatta, Dana Hollifield, Diane Darby, and Pam Hyde; and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeaut. Media Volunteers Sam Elkind and Joe Jones live stream the service. At the end of the service, we are blessing some of the United youth who are heading for college this fall: Weston Puglisi (University of New Mexico), Derek Darby (University of Utah), Bailey Gordon (Sarah Lawrence University).

Kids United – Singing through the Summer!

Children join Director of Family Ministries, Dana Bender, as they sing our way through the summer—exploring prayer and our love for God, Neighbor, and Creation through music (and also tending the Children's Garden). Nurture Center care and ministry with infants through Kinders offered by Tracy Church and Maria Navarette.

Sunday Forum – Opportunities and Challenges: New Mexico's Public Schools

United member Seana Flanagan is Managing Director of the New Mexico Public Education Department—i.e., the right-hand person to Secretary of Education Mariana Padilla. She knows first-hand the challenges—and opportunities—facing students, educators, and schools across the state. She'll offer a "behind-the-headlines" look.

Books That Didn't Make It into the Bible – Pretty Good Guys

Wednesdays, August 12 & 26 (10:30 am – Noon)

Not all Gospels made it into the Bible. What were they? What did they say? And why weren't they included? Join these lively discussions, starting this Wednesday, August 12.

What Does the Bible Really Say about Forgiveness? – Zoom Study Group

Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:00 am (MDT) – To register, email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Thank You to All Who Wrote Letters on Behalf of Our Immigrant Neighbors (And a second chance to do so in next Sunday's Forum, August 16)

Many thanks to the dozen+ United friends and members who stayed after worship this past Sunday to write letters of support and care to immigrants in detention centers and also letters of advocacy to Congressional Representatives. The Immigration/Refugee Task Force offers a second opportunity to join with others in letter-writing on Sunday (August 16) after the 10:00 service.

Sunday, August 23 – Calling All Parents of Youth (entering 6th through 12th grade)

Come and learn about what this year's youth program will look like this year! We'll share a calendar of events along with specific info about our upcoming retreat at Ghost Ranch. The meeting will be in the Education Wing after the 10:00 service. Interested? Please contact Family Minister Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com).

Sunday, August 30 – 46th Annual Meeting of the United Church of Santa Fe

We'll give thanks for our life and ministry, recognize outgoing Council members, elect the new Council, and look to the future. (The meeting will also be available by live stream.) Annual Reports will be emailed and copies also available at church.

Choral Scholars and More Musically This Summer at United

We finish out the summer with:

- Welcoming back **LaVonne Yazzie**, next Sunday (August 16) for Indian Market weekend. She is a Navajo/Diné singer and Cantor for Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Albuquerque.
- Choral Scholar **Heather Lacy** on **Sunday, August 23**.
- Pianist/Music Director Michelle Schumann offers special piano music on August 30.

Mark your calendars and bring friends!

\$1 Feeds 4 People – Summer Fund Drive for Santa Fe Food Depot

In worship last Sunday, we engaged the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 men (plus women and children :-)) with 5 loaves and 2 fish. Each week, the Santa Fe Food Depot performs a similar miracle, stretching every \$1 donated to create 4 meals of nutritious and healthy food for families, children, elders throughout Northern New Mexico. Your \$50 donation provides 200 meals. Now that's a miracle, too! To donate, make checks to "United Church," (memo "Food Depot") or go online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you!

Donations for Consuelo's Place and Casa Familia

The Faith Coalition for Immigration invites donations for Consuelo's Place (an emergency shelter) and Casa Familia (for women and children). Cleaning supplies needed for both shelters include laundry detergent, toilet paper, trash bags. Casa Familia also needs women's undergarments, shampoo, personal hygiene items, diapers. ¡Con mil gracias!

Love Creation!

United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change

Track car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and the *Santa Fe Watershed Association* for their environmental advocacy and hands-on care for God's good earth and generations yet to come. (\$8/100 miles driven; \$8/3 hours in the air). Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle! (And it helps mitigate climate change.)

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Two ways to help: 1.) Please use the compost containers in the Community Room and education rooms for your coffee cups, napkins, or plates from the Fellowship Time or church meals. They're all compostable. 2.) Get compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and then put in green bin in back of the church.

To Grow a Church – United Church Endowment

*"To grow a Church, preach from the heart, work for the poor,
welcome the stranger, embrace the Spirit.*

Laugh more than cry.

Fail more than wait.

Give more than keep.

Be unexpected love and trust the becoming to God."

Bishop Stephen Charleston

The United Church of Santa Fe could not fulfill our purpose to "Love God, Love Neighbor, Love Creation" without the spiritual, physical, and monetary support of the faithful. Many years ago, a group of members decided to help meet our purpose now and in the future, so the Endowment Fund was started. Thanks to the leadership of many people through the years, the Endowment helps fund (in part) our ministries with children and youth, as well as our music ministries, Desert Faith and other environmental programs. It also helps underwrite landscape maintenance and plan for major building expenses like HVAC or stucco upgrades. In turn, that frees up funds and donations for United's multi-faceted outreach ministries and community partners.

Support for the endowment comes from designated donations and also by simply including United Church in your will or estate planning. If you'd like more information on United's endowment—what it does, how it works, or how to contribute (now or in the future), please let us know. Also, if you'd like to include United in your will or planning – or have done so already – please let us know that, too.

Thank you from United's Endowment Committee: Frank Wilbanks, Chair; David Cagle, Co-Chair; Caroline Burnett, Trustee; Sam Elkind, Moderator; Bob Anshles, At-large; Sarah Sawtell, Treasurer; Rev. Talitha Arnold (ex-officio).