



Freedom Singers of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (c. 1962)

**A Service of the Word
for
FebFest Sunday
February 1, 2026
The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ**

For Reflection:

“See? See what you can do? Never mind you can’t tell one letter from another, never mind you born a slave, never mind you lose your name, never mind your daddy dead, never mind nothing. Here, this here, is what a man can do if he puts his mind to it and his back in it. Stop sniveling,” [the land] said. “Stop picking around the edges of the world. Take advantage, and if you can’t take advantage, take disadvantage. We live here. On this planet, in this nation, in this county right here. Nowhere else! We got a home in this rock, don’t you see!”

Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*

*There must be always remaining in every life,
some place for the singing of angels,
some place for that which in itself is breathless and beautiful.*

Howard Thurman, 20th c. Protestant theologian and preacher
who inspired the leaders of the U.S. Civil Rights movement

WE GATHER

Music for Gathering

*Introit

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

Negro Spiritual

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

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing God's Blessings and Regathering in Song

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

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

So Many Reasons to Rejoice

Eddie A. Robinson/Brandon Waddles

Call to Worship from the United Church of Christ Book Worship (congregation in bold)

Jesus said, "You ought always to pray and not faint."
God of all life and light, help us not to pray for easy lives;
but pray to be stronger women and men, kindred and neighbors.
Help us not to pray for tasks equal to our powers,
but for power equal to our tasks and your work.
So that the doing of your work in our world will be no miracle—
but our openness to you and your power will be the miracle.
And every day we will wonder at ourselves and the richness of life
that has come to us by the grace of God.
Let us sing our praise to the living God!

*Hymn

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Praise to the Living God

Curtis Beach/Diademata

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Hope (based on a prayer by Howard Thurman)

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

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

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

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.

Silent Prayer and Words of Assurance

*Our Song of Commitment

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Negro 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 . . .

(During the hymn, children through 5th grade are invited to the Nurture Center for Kids United with Dana Bender and Destiny Muñoz.)

WE ENGAGE

From the Good News of Jesus Christ

Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are those who know their need of God, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the gentle, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the clear in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Hymn 604

Hush, Hush

Negro Spiritual/arr. Jeffrey Radford

A Trialogue Sermon

Dr. G. Phillip Shoultz, III, Bradley Ellingboe, Rev. Talitha Arnold

Time of Silence

Musical Reflection

We Shall Overcome

U.S. Traditional/arr. G. Phillip Shoultz, III

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

(based on prayers of Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Maya Angelou)

God of all places and this place, of all peoples and this people,

you made us in your own image and called us to new life through Jesus the Christ.

So with a deep sense of confidence, we turn our thoughts and all the overtones of our feelings

in your direction, O God, our Creator.

We thank you for being with us this day.

We thank you for the powerful word of your Gospel truth

and the witness of hope and faith we have heard and sung this morning.

We thank you and we pray for your blessing upon us and on your world.

(silent prayer)

God of all time and this time, as you called those who have gone before, you call us now

to have the strength to love and the power to rise,

to work for justice and pray for peace.

We need your help to fulfill that calling, and so we pray:

Brood over us—cleansing, renewing and restoring,

to the end that we may face the responsibilities that await us beyond this moment

with strength, confidence, and courage.

Brood over us and open unto us your Self for ourselves.

(silent prayer)

Show us, O Lord, where love and hope and faith are needed.

Use us to bring your blessings to those places.

Guide us in our journey and walk with us.

Give to each of us the great, strong rhythm of your purposes,

lest our footsteps stumble in the shadows and we lose our way

in the long, perilous journey that stretches out before us.

(silent prayer)

Finally, God of all peoples and places, look with compassion on us and the whole human family,

take away the arrogance and hatred, which infect our hearts,

break down the walls that separate us,

unite us in bonds of love,

and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth,

that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony and hope.

We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, who showed us your way, opened us to your love that even death could not destroy, and taught us to pray together with boldness, courage, and trust, saying . . .

(Please pray any version of the Lord's prayer.)

Offering our Gifts

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn 570 *We Shall Overcome* (1-3) U.S. Traditional

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction *We Shall Overcome* U.S. Traditional

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

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!

We're glad you've joined in worship this morning and invite you to share in upcoming programs, study groups, and outreach ministries. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

It is our honor and delight to welcome **Dr. G. Phillip Shoulz, III** as guest conductor and preacher this morning. A nationally known conductor and arranger, Dr Shoulz uses the power of the voice, through spoken word and song, to foster community and inspire action among people of all ages and abilities. As Associate Artistic Director of *VocalEssence*, a renowned choir in Minneapolis, he conducts the Chorus and is the founding conductor of the *Singers Of This Age*, a dynamic choral arts apprenticeship for Twin Cities teens. He is also the Artistic Director of *Sing Democracy 250*, a national initiative of the *Together In Hope Project*, and the University of Minnesota's *Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert*. He leads the Graduate Choral Conducting program at the University of St. Thomas and is also Cantor for Worship, Music, and the Arts at Westwood Lutheran Church, where he writes liturgy, plans worship, and conducts choirs for children, youth, and adults.

We are also glad to welcome back **Bradley Ellingboe**, Artistic Director of *Coro Lux* and former Director of Music for the United Church (2015 – 2025). He was Professor of Music at the University of New Mexico for 30 years and is nationally known for his many compositions and choral leadership, as well as for developing *Coro Lux* into a premiere auditioned choir that offers a diverse repertoire ranging from Craig Hela Johnson's *Considering Matthew Shepherd* to Diné Composer Raven Chacon's *Tigue* to the upcoming concert, *Ain't a That Good News*, on Sunday, February 22, 4:00 pm at Albuquerque's African American Cultural Center.

Also sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Michelle Schumann, D.M.A., Music Director/Pianist; FebFest Choir (with United and *Coro Lux* members); Liturgists Tina Hubley and Larry Rasmussen; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez with volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Marcia Gardner, Rosemary Thompson, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, Diane Darby, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

Kids United

We'll learn about the beatitudes and continue making cards for those in our community who cannot come to church in person.

FebFest 2026 Concert – Today, 3:00 pm

Free Concert at St. Francis Cathedral Basilica, featuring the *FebFest Chorus* directed by Dr. Shoulz; *Coro Lux*, directed by Bradley Ellingboe; and *El Faro Youth Choir* (directed by Joe Mitchell). Freewill offering supports the new Santa Fe Faith Coalition for Immigration and the Albuquerque Road Runner Food Bank. Donate online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

Wednesday Women's Study

February 4 – 10:00 am

American Ghost by Hannah Nordhaus

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, 7:00 pm

New Members Welcomed Mardi Gras Sunday, Feb. 15

Interested? Please speak with Talitha. If interested, but can't come Feb.15, let us know that, too.

Resiliency and Hope: Unpacking the Gospel of John
Thursdays 8:00 am (Zoom, unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

Prayer Child Ministry Continues

Did you know that United includes 25 active children, ages birth through high school? All of these young people are navigating the joys, pressures, and obstacles associated with growing up in these uncertain times. United has a history of linking adults (1:1) with an assigned child that they pray for on a regular basis. The purpose is to intentionally include each of our young people in prayer, but it's also a way to connect adults with children with whom they might otherwise not get to know. If you are interested in being a "pray-er" for a child in this congregation, or simply want more information, please sign up on the sheet in the Community Room, OR reach out to Dana Bender at unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com.