

VOCATION:

It comes from the Latin "vocare," to call, and means a work a person is called to by God. There are different kinds of voices calling you to all kinds of work, and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God rather than of Society, say, or the Superego, or Self-Interest.

By and large a good rule for finding out is this: The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need most to do and (b) that the world most needs to have done. If you really get a kick out of your work, you've probably met requirement (a), but if your work is writing TV deodorant commercials, the chances are you've missed requirement (b). On the other hand, if your work is being a doctor in a leper colony, you have probably met requirement (b), but if most of the time you're bored and depressed by it, the chances are you have not only bypassed (a) but probably aren't helping your patients much either.

Neither the hair shirt nor the soft berth will do. The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

Wishful Thinking, Frederick Buechner

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE A United Church of Christ

LABOR DAY SUNDAY
September 3, 2023
10:00 A.M.

God is already here.

For Reflection on the Sunday before Labor Day

Working is a lot more than economics. It's about a search for daily meaning as well as for daily bread, for recognition as well as cash; in short, for a sort of life, rather than a Monday through Friday sort of dying.
Working, Studs Terkel

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

From a Sermon by Martyred Archbishop Óscar Romero of El Salvador

WE GATHER

(May the Prelude be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship. Please silence your cellphone and/or watch.)

Prelude

*Aria from The Goldberg Variations
Here I Am, Lord*

J.S. Bach
Daniel Schutte/arr. Jack Schrader

*Introit

They That Wait upon the Lord
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Traditional

***They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount upon wings as eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.***

Help us Lord, help us Lord, on our way.

They that love the Lord of life shall renew their strength. . .

Welcome and Breathing in God's Spirit of Peace, Hope, and Love

Offering God's Blessings to One Another *Blessings for this Blessed Day!*

Regathering and Breathing in God's Gifts Again *They That Wait* (1x) Traditional

Musical Call to Worship *The Voice of God Is Calling* John Holmes/Meirionydd

The Call to Worship from the Gospel of Matthew (congregation: bold)

Jesus Christ says to us, "Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

For his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

Take his yoke upon you, and learn from him.

For his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

For he is gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

Come unto him, and you shall find rest.

For his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

*Hymn 28 *For the Beauty of the Earth* (1-3) Pierpoint/Dix

WE PREPARE

*A Prayer for the Sabbath from the Jewish Tradition (congregation in bold)

Lord of all creation, You have made us the caretakers of Your world, to tend it, to serve it, and to enjoy it. For six days we measure and we build, we count and carry the real and the imagined burdens of our tasks, the success we earn and the price we pay.

On this, the Sabbath Day, give us rest.

For six days, if we are weary or bruised by the world, if we think ourselves giants or cause others pain, there is never a moment to pause, and know what we should really be.

On this, the Sabbath Day, give us time.

For six days we are torn between our private greed and the urgent needs of others, between the foolish noises in our ears and the silent prayer of our soul.

On this, the Sabbath Day, give us understanding and peace.

Help us, Lord,

to carry these lessons, of rest and time, of understanding and peace, into the six days that lie ahead, to bless us in the working days of our lives. Amen.

*A Time of Silent Prayer

*The Affirmation of God's Presence and Grace

*Our Song of Praise *For the Beauty of the Earth* Dix

*For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

(After the song, children are invited to learn about work and rest, and harvest the Garden in Children's Ministry.)

WE ENGAGE

A Story of Moses the Shepherd at Work Exodus 3:1-6

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.

Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Then God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." God said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Hymn *While Moses Tended Jethro's Sheep* (insert) Herman Stuempfle/Kingsfold

Reflections on *Holy Work* from United Members and Studs Terkel's *Working*

Word of Introduction (a brief silence follows each reflection)

Elementary School Principal	Jack L., United Church
Garbage Truck Driver	Nick S., <i>Working</i> by Studs Terkel
Family Physician	Joanna T., United Church
Waitress	Delores D., <i>Working</i> by Terkel
Home Depot Greeter	Gary J., United Church
Landscaper/Horticulturist	Linda C., United Church
Laid-off Salesman	Jack P., United Church
Steelworker	Mike L., <i>Working</i> by Terkel

A Final Reflection from Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971, Union Seminary Professor of Ethics)

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime;
therefore we must be saved by hope.
Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history;
therefore we must be saved by faith.
Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone;
therefore we are saved by love.

Silence

A Musical Response *He Shall Feed His Flock* from *Messiah* George Frederic Handel

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Prayer of Our Savior

Baptized into the Body of Christ, we are all called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. We can worship God in all our life. Let us pray for all who seek to honor God in their daily living and everyday work.

- Bless those who work in government,
that they might keep it serving the common good.
- Bless those who care for children,
that their love might be a reflection of your love.
- Bless those who teach,
that their knowledge might reflect your wisdom.
- Bless those who work within the institutional church,
that they might keep it faithful in mission.
- Bless those who work the land, the mines, the forests, and fishing grounds,
that they might be good stewards of God's creation.
- Bless those who work with the lonely, the homeless, the despairing, the alienated,
that they might see the face of Jesus in each person.
- Bless those who wait tables, wash dishes, and sweep floors,
that their service may be offered with dignity.
- Bless those who work in medicine and health care,
that they might be instruments of healing.
- Bless those who manage businesses and corporations,
that their decisions may be made with your will in mind.
- Bless artists and musicians,
that they might help us see and hear more completely.
- Bless those who work in high technology,
that they might enhance the dignity of human life.
- Bless those who are retired yet intercede for others with patience and faithfulness,
that they would sense God's face shining on them.
- Bless those who look for work but cannot find it and those whose work is demeaning or difficult,
that they might know their worth is not measured by their work, but by your love.

Lord of the whole week, and of our whole selves, we pray for all who are attempting to serve you. Give us courage, patience, vision; and strengthen us all in our ministry of witness to the world and service to others. All this we pray with boldness, courage, and trust, saying, (*Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.*)

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 425

For the Fruit of All Creation

Ar Hyd y Nos

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison (3x)

Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory.

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) for more information. Again, welcome!

Sharing in today's service are Worship Leaders Nyla and Larry Rasmussen; Scripture Reader Karen Wilbanks; Reflection Readers Sam Elkind, Tom Stewart, and Linda Churchill; Pianist Dr. Jessie Lo; Soloist Rebecca Brunette; Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. You were welcomed by Louise Cavatta, Karen Wilbanks, Pam Hyde, and Joan and Dave Doolittle. Luis Zapata is the Sunday Aide.

God's Helpers – Children's Ministry this Sunday

The children learn about all the ways God works and how we can help, too. They'll also harvest more vegetables from the Children's Garden.

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!

Rev. Talitha Arnold is away through Wednesday morning, Sept. 6. If pastoral need arises, please call the church office (505-988-3295) or the Caregiver on Call John Shaffer (814-336-9353). The church office is closed Monday, September 4, for Labor Day.

Women's Study Group Starts This Week – Wednesday, Sept. 6 (10:00 am)

All women welcome. We begin with Bonnie Gamus' *Lessons in Chemistry*. Pick up book schedule in the Community Room or contact Barbara MacPhee (macphee.b@gmail.com).

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals Begin This Wednesday, Sept. 6 (7:00 pm)

The Sanctuary Choir resumes its normal rehearsal schedule this Wednesday at 7:00 pm and begins singing in the 10:00 service next Sunday, Sept. 10, with warmup at 9:00 am. Want to know more about participating in choir? Contact Director of Music Brad Ellingboe: unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com.

Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls – Thursdays at 8:00 am via Zoom

Explore Sunday scriptures with Talitha Arnold and members and friends from across Santa Fe and across the country.

Fiesta Sunday All Church Burrito Brunch! – Next Sunday, September 10

What better way to celebrate Fiesta Sunday than a Burrito Brunch with your church community? Stay after the 10:00 service and share the fellowship, along with burritos, fruit, and dessert! Sign up in the Community Room today!

Will You Pray for a Child?

Would you be interested in being paired with a child in our congregation and praying for her/him every day? All that is asked of the adult is to remember the child in prayer each day. It's as simple as that! Please sign up in the Community Room. Questions? Please contact Talitha Arnold (505-988-3295). We'll start the program in mid-September. Thanks!

From Aging to "Sage-ing" – Study Group Forming

Following the forum on *Living into Aging*, a number of people expressed interest in starting study groups to continue the conversations. If you're one of them, please let Talitha Arnold know of your interest or sign up in the Community Room.

Make United's Welcome a Real Deal!

We want to be a welcoming community every Sunday—we need your help to do that! Sign up today to greet/usher. Thanks!