A Service of the Word For The Second Sunday of Eastertide

April 27, 2025 – 10:00 A.M.

The United Church of Santa Fe A United Church of Christ

For Reflection from the Last Easter Message of Pope Francis April 19, 2025

Love has triumphed over hatred, light over darkness and truth over falsehood. Forgiveness has triumphed over revenge. Evil has not disappeared from history; it will remain until the end, but it no longer has the upper hand; it no longer has power over those who accept the grace of this day.

Sisters and brothers, especially those of you experiencing pain and sorrow, your silent cry has been heard and your tears have been counted; not one of them has been lost! In the passion and death of Jesus, God has taken upon himself all the evil in this world and in his infinite mercy has defeated it. He has uprooted the diabolical pride that poisons the human heart and wreaks violence and corruption on every side. The Lamb of God is victorious! That is why, today, we can joyfully cry out: "Christ, my hope, has risen!" . . .

On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas! For all of us are children of God!

WE GATHER

Gathering Music/Prelude

Impromptu in A-flat Breathe on Me, Breath of God Franz Schubert Trentham/arr. J.B. Taylor

*Introit

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil (2x) Archbishop Desmond Tutu/John Bell



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Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts of Peace, Hope, and New Life

*Sharing the Easter Proclamation from Christian and Navajo/Diné Traditions

"Christ is risen!" ("Risen indeed!") "Beauty is restored again!" ("Restored indeed!")

*Regathering

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil (1x)

Tutu/Bell

Welcoming of Visitors and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship St. Kevin Arthur S. Sullivan

The Call to Worship from Psalm 118 (cong. bold)

The Lord is our strength and song, and is become our salvation.

The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous:

The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds:

the right hand of the Lord raises up.

We shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

Open to us the gates of righteousness: we will go into them, and we will praise the Lord.

We will give thanks to you, for you have answered us and become our salvation.

O give thanks unto the Lord; for God is good: for God's mercy endures forever.

*Hymn 230

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

John of Damascus 8th c./St. Kevin

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation

With songs of gladness and joy, we come to you in prayer, O God.

Spring has dawned on earth today.

Christ has burst from prison, and from three days sleep in death, like the sun has risen.

Gracias a Dios! Thanks be to God!

Neither could the gates of death nor the tomb's dark portal, nor the watchers, nor the stone hold Christ as a mortal.

Gracias a Dios! Thanks be to God!

May we, like Christ, rise again in hope and love. Open our eyes and minds to see your Resurrection power at work in this world and within each of us.

¡Gracias a Dios! Thanks be to God!

And when doubt and fear keep us from trusting you, give us the wisdom to turn to you again.

When despair looms larger than hope, give us the courage to ask for your Presence.

When we lack the strength to love, open us to you and your boundless love once again.

Gracias a Dios! Thanks be to God!

A Time of Silent Prayer

*Our Song of Praise

From All That Dwell below the Skies

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise! Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Redeemer's name be sung! Let God the Spirit free each tongue!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(During the song, children through 6^{th} grade are invited to Children's Ministry with Family Ministry Director Dana Bender and Education Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.)

WE ENGAGE

Jesus Comes to Thomas John 20:19-28

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked out of fear, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Hymn 44

Beautiful Jesus (1-3)

Silesian Folk Melody

Sermon

Seeing with Our Own Hands

Silent Reflection

Musical Response 451

Be Now My Vision (1-3)

Ancient Irish Text and Melody

WE RESPOND

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

Sharing our Gifts

Offertory

*Hymn

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Sacred Harp

Prayer of Thanks

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life, and new life in Christ. Use these gifts and our lives so that all people might have the abundance of your life and love. Amen.

Love Divine, All Loves Exceling (1-3) Charles Wesley/Hyfrydol Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down, 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing spir - it In - to trou-bled breast; ev - ery Come, al-might-y to de - liv - er, Let us life ceive; all thy Fin- ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot-less be; let thy hum-ble dwell-ing, All Fix in thy faith-ful mer-cies crown; us Let us all thee in - her - it, Let us find thy prom-ised rest; Sud - den - ly turn and nev - er, Nev - er more thy tem -ples leave. Let us great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re-stored in thee; Je - sus, thou art com - pas -sion; Pure, un - bound-ed love thou art; Take a - way the love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga Thee we would be al - ways bless-ing, Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, Changed from glo - ry glo - ry, Till in heav'n we take our place, in - to tion, En - ter Vis- it ev - ery trem-bling heart. End of faith, be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at iib - er - ty. Pray and praise thee with-out ceas - ing, Glo-ry thy pre-cious love. cast thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise. our crowns be-fore

^{*}Benediction

^{*}Musical Benediction

Welcome to the United Church of Santa Fe!

We're glad you have joined for the Second Sunday of Easter and invite you to join the life and ministry of United in the coming weeks. For information, please call the church office (505-988-3295) or go to our website (unitedchurchofsantafe.org). Again, welcome and blessings for the 50 Days of Eastertide.

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Minister; Dr. Michelle Schumann, Pianist; Dana Bender, Family Ministry Director; Liturgists (to be announced); Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez, with Audio Tech Frank Wilbanks. Many thanks also to the Sacred Space Team, Children's Aides Destiny Muñoz and Maria Navarette; Louise Cavatta, Blanca Surgeon, Rosemary Thompson, Karen Wilbanks and Pam Hyde greeters and ushers (organized by Diane Darby).

COME ONE. COME ALL!

Kids United explore "Community and Collages" in Children's Ministry today.

Meet Dana Bender, United's New Director of Family, Youth and Children's Ministry. Today, Sunday, April 27 – 11:15 am

Parents, kids, and the rest of the congregation are all invited to this special forum with Dana Bender, United's new fulltime Director of Family, Youth, and Children's Ministry. Another reason to celebrate!

Being Christian: What Does It Mean, What Does It Matter? - Sunday, May 4 Rev. Peter Marty, Publisher of The Christian Century

We welcome renowned preacher Rev. Peter Marty as our guest in both the 10:00 service and the 11:15 Sunday Forum. Rev. Marty is publisher of *The Christian Century*, the flagship journal of American progressive Christianity and ecumenical reporting. He also recently retired as the Senior Pastor for St. Paul Lutheran Church, a 3,000-member congregation in Davenport, Iowa. A graduate of Colorado College and Yale Divinity School, he and Talitha Arnold are close friends and colleagues. It is an honor to welcome him to the United Church of Santa Fe.

What Does It Mean to Be a Christian Community in America 2025? All Church Retreat – Saturday, May 10 (8:30 am to 1:00 pm)

As United looks to the future (and deals with the present), what does our faith call us to do and be as a community seeking to walk in the ways of Jesus the Christ? Join with United Church council and other leaders to explore this question and look with faith to God's future for United. Please sign up today.

FOOD, FUN AND GAMES - SUNDAY, MAY 18

Plan to stay after the 10:00 service on Sunday, May 18 for an All Church, All Ages Lunch and Outdoor Games! More information to come—but sign up and save the date now!

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS - SUNDAY, MAY 18

On the 5th Sunday of Eastertide, we welcome new members into the United Church of Santa Fe. If you are interested in "officially" joining United, please speak with Rev. Talitha Arnold, Moderator Sarah Sawtell, or Discipleship Chair Diane Darby. Thank you!

LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, CREATION

That's Our Goal at the United Church of Santa Fe - in a host of ways! *More info at unitedchurchofsantafe.org.*

Love Neighbor . . .

- Monthly Suppers for Interfaith Shelter, St. E's, and Casa Familia. (Pat Roach, 505-988-7357).
- Chop & Grate tomorrow morning, Monday, April 28 at 9:30 am.
- Ukrainian, Palestinian, and Sudanese Refugee Relief, Navajo/Diné support; Communities in Schools, Border Ministries, and more.

Love Creation. . .

Compost for Creation (with Reunity Resources), Carbon Offset Program (with NM Interfaith Power and Light; Tree New Mexico); SF River Cleanup (with SF Watershed Assoc.) Sat., May 17 (8:30-10:00 am).

Fellowship/Study Groups

Wednesday Women's Study Group – May 7 (10:00 am) Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday, May 14 (10:30 am) "Faith and Resilience" Bible Study Group – Thursdays (starting again May 8) via Zoom (8:00 am)

Be the Light—SÉ LA LUZ—One Great Hour of Sharing
This spring (through Memorial Day Sunday, May 25—which is also United's 45th birthday), United invites your support of One Great Hour of Sharing, the national United Church of Christ offering to support refugee resettlement, disaster relief, food and small farmer programs around the world and in the U.S. Gifts can also be designated specifically for particular emergencies (e.g., Global food or medical relief, emergency needs for fire/tornado victims or refugees on the U.S./Mexico border). Donate online unitedchurchofsantafe.org, memo: OGHS. Thank you!