

A SERVICE OF THE WORD
For
THE SEVENTH (and last) SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

May 17, 2026
10:00 A.M.

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

WE GATHER

*(May the first note of the Gathering Music be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship.
Also, please turn off your cell phone upon entering the Sanctuary.)*

Gathering Music	<i>Romanze in F Major Op. 118, No. 5</i>	Johannes Brahms
	<i>The God of Abraham Praise</i>	Trad. Hebrew Melody/arr. Stevens
*Introit	<i>Goodness Is Stronger than Evil</i> (2x)	Archbishop Desmond Tutu/John Bell
	<i>*Please rise in body or spirit.</i>	

***Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours through God who loves us.
Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours through God who loves us.***

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Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Blessing of the Graduates

Sharing God's Good News ***Christ is Risen ! Risen indeed!*** ***Beauty is restored! Restored indeed!***

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

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship *The Lone Wild Bird* David Johnson

The Call to Worship (cong. bold)

Praise God, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair. ¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!

¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!

Praise God, who gathers up the fragments of our lives and creates new possibilities.

¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!

Praise God, who laid the foundation of the earth and all the children of God shouted for joy!

¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!

People of God, come. Sing for joy and give praise to God.

*Hymn	471	<i>What a Covenant</i> (1-2)	
			Elisha A. Hoffman/Leaning (Anthony Showalter)

WE PREPARE

Musical Call to Prayer *God Be in My Head* John Rutter

A Prayer of Invocation (unison)

O God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promise that if we seek you with all our hearts, we will find you. Be among us this day. Hear the confessions of our mouths and the yearnings of our hearts. Help us change the narrowness of our vision and the pettiness of our living. Make us new again with your holy grace. Grant us the maturity to accept your many gifts in humility and to use them with faithfulness. Grant to us your spirit that our worship may have integrity and energy, ever witnessing to your holy presence in our lives. We praise and give thanks to you, Eternal Presence; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

A Time of Silence and the Assurance of God's Grace

*What have we to dread, what have we to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
We have blessed peace with our God so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms.
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

(During the hymn, children in 5th grade and younger are invited to Kids United with Family Minister Dana Bender and others. Childcare is also offered for Pre-K's, toddlers and infants in the Nurture Center.)

WE ENGAGE

God Makes a Covenant with Moses and the People (cong. bold)

Exodus 19:1-20

On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. They journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one, "**Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.**" Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after."

When Moses had told the words of the people to the Lord, the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes and prepare for the third day, because on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. You shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Be careful not to go up the mountain or to touch the edge of it. ... When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they may go up on the mountain.'" So Moses went down from the mountain to the people. He consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes. And he said to the people, "Prepare for the third day."

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now all of Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder. When the Lord descended upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, the Lord summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up....

Hymn 283

Spirit of the Living God

Daniel Iverson

A Dialogue Sermon

Renewing the Covenant

Silence

Musical Response 286

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (1-2, 4)

Jim Manley

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer *(We conclude with the Lord's Prayer. Please pray any version familiar to you.)*

Sharing our Abundance

Spirit of the Living God

Iverson/arr. Alexander

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

All that we are and all that we have comes from your abundant heart and gracious hand. Receive these gifts and our lives in thanksgiving for your covenant. Use these gifts and use our lives so that we might keep your covenant of grace and care with all people and all creation. Amen.

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn 20

God of Abraham and Sarah
(choir only on v. 3)

James Germenian/Constantine

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Ukrainian Chant

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We're glad you've joined us in this special service this morning! We invite you also to explore the ways we seek to "love God, Neighbor, and Creation" by visiting the United website: unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Again, welcome!

We are honored to welcome Rabbi Martin Levy of Temple Beit Tikva as our guest in both worship and the Sunday Forum today. Rabbi Levy was raised in Teaneck, New Jersey and graduated from Amherst College. A graduate, with honors, from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York and Jerusalem, he served congregations in Missouri, Texas, and Idaho before coming to Santa Fe's Beit Tikva congregation in 2010, where he not only leads worship but offers engaging and informative adult education classes. As a writer, his articles have been in *Midstream*, *The New York Times*, *The American Rabbi*, and *Response* magazine. He is also an expert figure skater, teaching students at Santa Fe's Genovez Chavez center and competing in national figure skating contests. According to Beit Tikva's website, Rabbi Levy is "probably the only active figure skating rabbi in the country!"

Also sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Pianist/Music Director; the Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; Liturgist Blanca Surgeon. Family Minister Dana Bender, along with Maria Navarrete and Destiny Muñoz and volunteer Tracy Church, organizes and leads *Kids United*. Our Ministers of Hospitality who greeted you are Marcia Gardner, Rosemary Thompson, Tom Stewart, and Pam Hyde; Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault. Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez with volunteer Joe Jones do the livestream.

Kids United: Praying in the Dirt

Children through 5th grade (and any child or youth) are welcome to help plant tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, and peppers! Family Ministry Director Dana Bender, volunteer helpers Donna Clark and Tracy Church, and Children's Ministry Assistants Maria Navarrete and Destiny Muñoz assist.

Adult Forum: Jewish in America 2026 – 11:15 am

Following his dialogue sermon with Talitha, Rabbi Levy continues the conversation in the Sunday Forum, sharing some of the spiritual, moral, and practical challenges facing Jews and their communities in this time in the U.S.

We also bless United's Graduates today: Leo Joyce Brown, Althea Pak, Steven Zappe, Bonnie Bannerman (Middle School), Weston Puglisi, Derek Darby, Bailey Gordon, Sasha Smucker, Luke Rand, Calvin Joyce Brown (High School), and M. Kingston (Carleton College), Jamie Natonabah (Institute of American Indian Arts).

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Pentecost – Wear RED!

We welcome Rev. Ben Larzelere as guest preacher next Sunday for the first celebration of Pentecost. Rev. Talitha Arnold will be away from this Wednesday through Wednesday, May 27, visiting family. Office Administrator Lin Raymond is away on vacation through Tuesday, May 26. Family Minister Dana Bender and Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez will be in the church office through the end of next week. The church office will be closed next Monday, May 25 for the Memorial Day holiday. If a pastoral need arises, please call the church office (505-988-3295) or the Caregiver on Call (Cheryl Haskin, 503-351-6561).

ALSO COMING UP AT UNITED

Wednesday Women's Study Group – May 20 (10:00 am)

This Wednesday (May 20), we conclude our discussion of Deborah Jackson Taffa's *Whiskey Tender*. All welcome. Morton (MomMorton@gmail.com), Jenn Wynne (home@wynnes.us)

Adult Forum: VIDA (Volunteers for Immigrants in Detention – Albuquerque) – Next Sunday, May 24

Kelly McCloskey-Romero, Volunteer Coordinator for VIDA, presents an update of the organization's current work in New Mexico, especially in light of the new state law, the Immigrant Safety Act.

What Are Biblical Values? – Pretty Good Guys

Wednesday, May 27 – 10:30 am to 12:00 noon

Through spring, the Pretty Good Guys invites all men to join in a study of "What Are Biblical Values?" by Yale professor John Collins. Books for purchase in the Community Room. The focus May 27 is "Violence and Zeal," led by Bruce Turnquist.

What Does the Bible Really Say About 'Forgiveness?'

Zoom Study Group Starts Thursday, May 28, 8:00 – 9:00 am MDT

What does it mean to "turn the other cheek?" Is it actually a good idea to "forgive 7 times 70?" Or "forgive and forget?" What about restorative justice? Or judgement? Join people from around the country, as well as the congregation, for an in-depth look at what the Bible says about this challenging topic—and explore your own questions, too. All welcome! Email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com to register.

Friday Fun Night! (May 29) – All ages welcome!

At United – 5:30-7:30 pm

We'll make "tongues of fire" Pentecost cupcakes (remember those?) for the Intergenerational Pentecost service, enjoy a simple supper, and play games! Sign up in the Community Room. Info: Dana Bender, unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com

Walking Group – Saturday, May 30 (10:00 am)

Interested in walking outdoors with a friendly bunch of people twice a month? Join us for an easy two-mile, paved walk at Rancho Viejo Park, 55 Canada del Rancho, near the Cosmetology School. Bring water, a snack, sunscreen, hat, and a walking stick (if needed). Barbara Christiano (Figaro@wcvf.com), Diane Darby (ddarbysfm@gmail.com)

“United Church Night” at Fuego Baseball Game!
Friday, June 5—5:30 pm (sign up by Wednesday, June 3)

Join with your United community to cheer Santa Fe’s hometown baseball team, the Fuegos. We’re sponsoring the game, which means we get to throw out the first pitch, meet the players, get discounted tickets, and have United Church highlighted all through the game. Tickets are \$7 (33% off!) and families with kids are free. You can also help underwrite family tickets by including a donation with your ticket purchase. Sign up at church or email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Friends are welcome, of course!

Drop-in Choirs This Summer – First One is June 7

During these charming days of summer, we invite you to join us for our once/month Drop-In choirs – Sundays, June 7, July 12, and August 9. Just “drop in” on one of those Sundays for the 9:00 am rehearsal. We’ll whip up an anthem and sing for the 10:00 am service. All singers welcome.

Weekly Food Drive for The Food Depot

Help Santa Fe children as they head into the summer by donating non-perishable food for the Food Depot. Public school have “Food Pantries” that parents, youth, and children can use for weekends and summertime when school isn’t in session.

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 to register! Questions? Please contact Director of Family Ministry Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com).

LOVE GOD LOVE NEIGHBOR LOVE CREATION



THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE

LOVE IN ACTION ARTS CAMP

15-19 JUNE AGES
(9AM-3PM) 1ST-6TH GRADE

\$125/CAMPER (INCLUDES LUNCH AND SNACKS)

EXPLORING KINDNESS, BELONGING, AND CARING FOR THE EARTH THROUGH:

- STORIES
- ART
- MUSIC
- COOKING
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- NATURE PLAY
- COMMUNITY-BUILDING



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SIGN UP AND REGISTER ONLINE:
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