

**A Service of Word and Sacrament
for
The Fifth Sunday of Eastertide**

May 18, 2025 – 10:00 A.M.

**The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ**

For Reflection:

*God loves us, all of us, evil will not prevail. We are all in the hands of God.
Without fear, united, hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we will go forward.
We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs Christ's light.*

Pope Leo XIV, from his first speech after his election

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

*Reverie
O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

Claude Debussy
Thomas Williams/arr. Jeff Bjorck

*Introit

*Easter Alleluia (2x)
Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord,
Alleluia, Alleluia, sing praise to Christ's name.*

Donald Fishel

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Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing God's Good News

Christ is Risen ! Risen indeed! Beauty is restored! Restored indeed!

Regathering

Easter Alleluia (1x)

Donald Fishel

Welcoming of Visitors and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

The Great Commandment (excerpt)

Ralph Johnson

The Call to Worship from the Gospel of John (**cong. bold**)

Listen, all people, Christ has given us a new commandment.

As Christ has loved us, so we are to love one another.

The world will know we are Christ's disciples,

if we love one another and love this world as God so loves.

Let us give thanks to God and sing praise to the One who loves us and calls us to love this world.

*Hymn

12

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Isaac Watts/Ellacombe

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation (**unison**)

We thank you, for you are our God, and God of our fathers and mothers forever. You are the Refuge of our life, the Shield of our help. From generation to generation, may we thank you and count your praises—evening, morning, and noon—for our lives which are committed into your hand, for our souls which are entrusted to you, for your miracles which are with us every day, for your wonders and goodness at all times. O Good One, your compassion does not fail. O Merciful One, your loving kindness never ceases. Forever we hope in you.

Time of Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace

*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 through every land, by every tongue.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

*(During the song, children through 6th grade are invited to the Children's Garden
with Family Minister Dana Bender and Education Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.)*

WE WELCOME

The Receiving of New Members

Words of Welcome from the United Church of Christ *Book of Worship*

By your baptism, you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith, which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Four Questions of the Candidates

- Affirmation of Baptismal Vows
- Promise to choose God's way of life over the world's ways of death
- Commitment to personal discipleship and growth in faith
- Commitment to the covenantal community

Questions of the Congregation

You have heard the affirmation of these people. Will you now welcome them into the common life of this church? Will you promise them your friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and ministry of this community of faith?

We promise with the help of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in that knowledge and love of God and be witness of Jesus' ways of hope and justice in our world.

Sharing the Covenant of the United Church of Santa Fe

**In the Lord's name we gather together here in Santa Fe
to worship and grow in the Christian tradition,
to minister in love to all persons,
to strive for justice and peace,
to respond to God's word.**

**We celebrate the heritage of Santa Fe and give
ourselves to its challenges and opportunities.**

**We endeavor to live in harmony with all creation
as stewards of the earth.**

**We share in the life and mission of the United Church of Christ
and of Christians everywhere.**

**To these purposes we unite and covenant with God
and one another, watchful for the guidance
of the Holy Spirit.**

A Prayer of Blessing and Laying On of Hands

Signing and Singing the Covenant

471

What a Covenant

A.J. Showalter/Leaning

WE ENGAGE

The Acts of the Apostles

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

"But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'

"This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

"He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Hymn 416

I Will Trust in the Lord

African American Spiritual

Sermon

Love One Another and Don't Hinder God

Silent Reflection

Musical Response

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (*please pray any version*)

Offering the Gifts God Has Given Us

Offertory

What Wondrous Love Is This

Prayer of Dedication (**unison**)

Creating God, Welcoming God, bless our tithes and offerings, returned to you. Multiply and use them for the sake of our neighbors, kindred, and all creation. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

Recognition and Blessing of Our Graduates

*Hymn

Creating God (back page)

Jeffery Rowthorn/Truro

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie eleison

Ukrainian Orthodox (c. 9th century)

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Welcome to the United Church of Santa Fe!

We're glad you have joined us for the Fifth Sunday of Easter and invite you to join in 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.

BLESSINGS FOR NEW MEMBERS AND GRADUATES!

We welcome nine new members today! Please take time after the service to extend your blessing and keep them in prayer: Barbara MacPhee, Judy and Robert B. Crawford, James V. Hogue, Kurt Burk and Ken Latz, Nanette Farrelly, and Cynthia and Donald Duncan.

We also congratulate and bless our Graduates from middle school, high school, university, and divinity school today. Please keep them and their families in prayer as they enter a new stage of life and learning (Cheryl Haskin, Iliff Divinity School – Masters in Divinity; Serena Natonabah, Master's degree Colorado State University; Aleisha Natonabah, Capitol High; Jack Smucker and Jaden Rand, Santa Fe Prep Middle School).

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Minister; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Dr. Michelle Schumann, Pianist; Molly and Sam Elkind, Liturgists; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez, with volunteer Audio Tech Frank Wilbanks. Many thanks also to Family Minister Dana Bender; Children's Aides Destiny Muñoz and Maria Navarette; the Sacred Space Team; and greeters and ushers Don Duncan, Rosemary Thompson, Dusty Caruso, Pam Hyde, and Karen Wilbanks (organized by Diane Darby).

GARDENS AND WORMS AND COMPOST (OH, MY!)

Kids United Dig Deep

The children are preparing the soil in the garden for planting. Today we get started with planting! Led by Family Minister Dana Bender with Children's Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz. All welcome and bring friends. ☺

FOOD, FUN AND GAMES – TODAY!

Stay after the 10:00 service today for an All Church, All Ages Lunch and Outdoor Scavenger Hunt and Games! All welcome!

Next Sunday, May 25 Is United's 45th Birthday!

We've moved the full celebration to September 14 to give time for planning a really big bash—but on our official 45th Birthday, we'll have cake, conversation, and all kinds of good things! Plan to join in!

Creating God

Jeffery Rowthorn/Truro

1. Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -
2. Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - teries
3. Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now op -
4. In dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - ily

signs of fur - thest space; Let sun and moon and
known or yet un - told; Let wa - ter's fra - gile
pressed for creed or race; Let peace, de - scend - ing
of a bil - lion names; Let ev - 'ry life be

stars and light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
blend with air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care!
as the dove, an - nounce on earth your heal - ing love.
touched by grace un - til we praise you face to face.

LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR
More info at unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

Be the Light—SÉ LA LUZ—One Great Hour of Sharing

This spring (through next 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!

And Other Ways to Love Neighbor . . .

- Help prepare and/or deliver monthly suppers for Interfaith Shelter, St. E’s, and Casa Familia (Pat Roach, 505-988-7357).
- Assemble Church World Service Hygiene Kits for refugees from Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan.
- Navajo/Diné support for Good Shepherd Church in Ft. Defiance, Arizona (Talitha Arnold, 505-988-32995).
- Advocacy/basic needs support for immigrants and asylum seekers through the Immigration/Refugee Task Force.
- BookKids provides free books for Santa Fe Public School students (Gail Ansheles, 608-335-4774).

FELLOWSHIP/STUDY GROUPS

Wednesday Women’s Study Group
May 21 (10:00 am)

We’ll select books for next year’s reading. All women welcome! For more info, contact Cheryl Morton (mommorton@gmail.com, 515-240-4523) or Jenn Wynn (home@wynnes.us, 817-219-0707).

“Faith and Resilience”
Bible Study Group
Thursdays via Zoom (8:00 am)

Join this weekly Zoom study to deepen your faith and share the journey. People tune in from all around the country. Sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Pretty Good Guys
Starting a New Book Study
Wednesdays, May 14 (10:30 am)
Join with other United men to engage books that challenge and encourage us in our journeys of life and faith. All welcome! (Talitha Arnold, 505-988-3295)

LOVE GOD, LOVE CREATION

Compost Collection – It’s a Miracle!

United contracts with Reunity Resources to transform compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Pick up compostable garbage bags at the church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill them at home, and bring back to put in the green bin by the Children’s Garden. More things in compost bins means less in landfills. Thanks! Questions? Contact Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700).

Planning Your Summer Travels?
Offset Your Carbon Use & Care for Creation

United’s “Carbon Offset Program” helps plant trees and change policies to address climate change. It’s simple to do: track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to support *Tree New Mexico’s* hands-on tree planting and *NM Interfaith Power and Light’s* advocacy. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care. Questions? Contact Larry Rasmussen (505-231-0993).

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP...

Benefit Supper at Jambo Cafe
Wednesday, May 28 for
Changing Lenses, Changing Lives

Join Changing Lenses Changing Lives (CLCL) at Jambo Cafe anytime between 5:00 and 9:00 pm on Wednesday, May 28. Chef and Owner Ahmed Obo will generously contribute a percentage of the evening’s guest bills to CLCL’s school feeding program in Kenya. CLCL is a nonprofit founded by member Jenn Wynne. Come enjoy a meal while supporting a great cause!

Summer Drop-in Choirs
All singers invited to United’s Summer “Drop-in Choirs” **Pentecost Sunday (June 8)** and **Sundays July 20 and August 10**. Come at **9:00 am** to rehearse and sing in the 10:00 service. Interested? Contact Director of Music Brad Ellingboe (unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com).

“United Church Night” at Fuego Baseball Game!
Sunday, June 8—5:30 pm
(sign up by Wednesday, June 4)

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 highlighted all through the game. Tickets are \$6 (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 welcome, of course!

Pride Parade – Saturday, June 28
The annual Pride parade is on Saturday, June 28. We are looking at the possibility of trying to get a van or something similar for persons who need to ride rather than walk. Please let us know if that is of interest by contacting unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or 505-988-3295. Thank you!