



The 50 Days of Eastertide

A Service of the Word
for
Good Shepherd Sunday and Earth Sunday
April 21, 2024

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

For Reflection:

Shepherd me, O God,
beyond my wants, beyond my fears,
from death into life.

Marty Haugen

WE GATHER

Gathering Music/Prelude

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

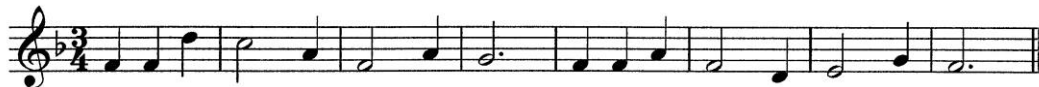
Bradbury/Arr. John Carter

*Introit

Zimbabwe Alleluia (2x)

Abraham Maraire

**Please rise in body or spirit.*



Al-le-lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

*Sharing the Easter Proclamation from Christian and Navajo Traditions

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

*Regathering and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Zimbabwe Alleluia (2x)

Abraham Maraire

Welcoming of Visitors and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

Jesu, Joy of My Desiring

J.S. Bach

The Call to Worship

As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,

so God seeks and saves the lost.

Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,

so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.

As a father welcomes a returning wayward son,

so God welcomes us, and lets the past be past.

Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received.

Let us receive, welcome and give thanks for one another and for the One who gives us life together.

WE PREPARE

A Prayer from the Lakota Tradition

My spirit is one with you, Great Spirit.
 You strengthen me day and night to share my very best
 with my brothers and sisters.
 You, whom my people see in all of creation and in all people,
 show your love for us.
 Helps me to know, like the soaring eagle, the heights of knowledge.
 From the Four Directions, fill me with the four virtues of fortitude, generosity, respect, and wisdom;
 so that I will help my people walk in the path of understanding and peace.

A Time of Silent Prayer

Our Psalm of Faith (unison)

Psalm 23

**You, Lord, are my shepherd, I shall not want.
 You make me to lie down in green pastures;
 You lead me beside the still waters;
 You restore my soul.
 You lead me in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.
 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil; for you are with me;
 Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
 You prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
 You anoint my head with oil;
 My cup overflows.
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
 and I will dwell in your house, O Lord, forever.**

*Our Song of Praise

Brother James Air

*Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me;
 and where God reigns in heaven and earth, my dwelling place will be.
 My shepherd blesses, cares, and leads through all eternity.*

WE SHARE OUR COVENANT WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

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

*Singing and Signing the Covenant 354 *God, When I Came into This Life* Fred Kaan/Land of Rest

WE ENGAGE

The Good Shepherd

John 10:10-18

[Then Jesus said to the crowd], "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down their life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as God our Creator knows me and I know the Creator. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason, the Creator loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Creator and your Creator."

Hymn 247

My Shepherd Is the Living God

Consolation

Sermon

Like a Good Shepherd

Over the course of your life . . .

- Who is one person who helped restore your soul?
- Who has led you to green pastures and still waters?
- Who has walked with you through the valleys of the shadows of death?
- Who has anointed you and filled your cup to overflowing?
- In a word, who have been your Good Shepherds? Who has fed you, protected and healed you, walked with you, even sacrificed some of their life for you?
- And who have you helped shepherd?

Time for Silence

A Musical Response

The 23rd Psalm

Bobbie McFarren

WE RESPOND

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (*please pray any version*)

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn 81

God Be with You (1-3)

Jeremiah Rankin/William G. Tomer

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

God Be with You

Jeremiah Rankin/William G. Tomer

*God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. Your presence enriches the experience of us all. We also invite you to join in our education and service offerings, today and in the week ahead. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Moderator Sarah Sawtell, Dir. of Music Bradley Ellingboe, Pianist Dr. Jessie Lo, the Sanctuary Choir, and liturgists Margy Maira and Steve Hamilton. Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez and Frank Wilbanks livestream the service. You were greeted by Kimberly Zeilik, Louise Cavatta, Diane Darby, Pam Hyde, and Karen Wilbanks. Luis Zapata is United's professional Aide, from EGIS.

We welcome five new members today (Ron and Lee Evenson, Barbara MacPhee, Laurie Romero, and Rosemary Thompson). Please extend your blessing and keep the new members in prayer as we live and grow together in faith.

Desert Faith, First-hand—11:15

Since its beginning, the United Church of Santa Fe has been committed to “living in harmony with all creation as stewards of the earth.” Since 1987, we’ve also been a Desert Faith Church, equally committed to living *with* this high desert landscape, not just in it. After worship today, take time to walk around the church grounds with Landscape Chair Linda Churchill and others to see how we live into that identity and imagine what we might do to enhance that commitment.

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!

Pretty Good Guys – This Wednesday (10:30 to 12:00)

All men invited to join in “Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time,” a classic book by Marcus Borg. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

Building a World Without Nuclear Weapons – An Urgent Imperative

This Wednesday, April 24 (6:00 – 8:00 pm) at Santa Maria de la Paz Catholic Church

Santa Maria de la Paz and United host a conversation on nuclear disarmament – religious, political, and practical aspects of this complex issue, with suggestions for “Action Steps.” Catholic Archbishop John C. Wester focused his 2022 Pastoral letter on *Living in the Light of Christ's Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament*. All welcome.

Santa Fe River Clean Up – This Saturday, April 27 (8:30-10:00 am)

Join us to care for our corner of Creation. Meet at Closson St. Pedestrian Bridge. We provide donuts, coffee, trash bags. You bring a hat, sunscreen, and gloves. Sign up in the Community Room or at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. All Creation thanks you!

All-Ages Church Hike – Saturday, May 4 (9:00 – 11:30 am)

Join us Saturday, May 4 for a lovely hike along the Santa Fe River. Meet at United at 9:00 to carpool to trailhead. We walk through trees for about a mile+, stopping to see plants and listen to birds. Great opportunity for all ages, especially those new to ‘hiking.’ Sign up: Community Room or unitedchurchsf@gmail.com (info: Caroline Burnett or Karen Wilbanks).

Youth/Adult Border Trip (Sunday, May 26 to Thursday, May 30)

We’re planning an Intergenerational Border Trip to Arizona/Sonora (Mexico) the week of Memorial Day (leaving that Sunday or Monday, returning Thursday or Friday). All youth and adults invited. If interested, please contact Talitha know.

Love God, Neighbor, and Creation – Outreach Opportunities – Thank you!

Go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org or send a check to 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe NM 87505.

United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change

Track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to *NM Interfaith Power and Light and Tree New Mexico*. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Compost Collection for Creation!

Deposit compostable products in the green bin. Compostable garbage bags at the church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please). More info at reunityresources.com or call Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700). Thanks.

Desert Chorale's Santa Fe Sings! – Next Saturday, April 27 at United—8:45 to 2:00

United is proud to be the home of the annual choral workshop *Santa Fe Sings!*, sponsored by the Desert Chorale and led by Music Director, Joshua Habermann. The day ends with an informal performance in our sanctuary (1:30 to 2:00). For more information or to register, go to: desertchorale.org/concerts-events/santa-fe-sings/.

Coro Lux Concert: An Afternoon at the Movies – Next Sunday, April 28, 4:00 and 6:00 pm

The *Coro Lux* Chamber Chorus (directed by United's Director of Music Bradley Ellingboe) presents “An Afternoon at the Movies” at 4:00 and 6:00 pm at **Albuquerque's Canteen Brewhouse (2381 Aztec Rd., NE)**. The program includes choral arrangements and audience sing-alongs of beloved songs from the movies. Tickets (\$10): abqcorolux.org/tickets/.

Coro Lux Concert: Carmina Burana – Friday & Saturday, May 3 & 4, 7:00 pm

Coro Lux, directed by Bradley Ellingboe, presents Carl Orff's epic cantata *Carmina Burana*, with professional soloists and dancers. (United's pianist Jessie Lo also accompanies.) ABQ's St. Paul Lutheran Church. Tickets: abqcorolux.org/tickets/.

Rev. Talitha Arnold is away starting this Tuesday afternoon through Tuesday, May 7, for a week of Desert Faith Study leave and a week of annual leave with family. Rev. Ben Larzelere will be the guest preacher Sunday, April 28 and May 5. If a pastoral need arises, please call the church office (505-988-3295) or the Caregiver on Call John Shaffer (814-336-9353).