

**A Service of the Word
for
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June 23, 2024 – 10:00 A.M.**

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

For Reflection:

Not long ago I was a guest on Real Time with Bill Maher, with one of America's most prominent atheists. Wearing my clerical collar, I realized that I stood out among his guests. So I decided to announce to Bill that I, too, am an atheist. He seemed taken aback, so I explained that if we were talking about the God who hates poor people, immigrants, and gay folks, I don't believe in that God either. Sometimes it helps to clarify our language.

Rev. William J. Barber II,

The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Awaken the Dawn*

William M. Runyan/arr. Larry Shackley
Stuart Garrard/arr. Larry Shackley

*Introit

Circle of Life (2x)
(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Marty Haugen

*One great circle of life, living circle of love, plants and trees, seas and rivers, and the blessed sky above,
Creatures great, creatures small, one the web that weaves us all, in the circle of life.*

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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 *Circle of Life* (1x)

Marty Haugen

Musical Call to Worship

St. Denio

Welsh Tune

The Call to Worship (congregation bold)

Jesus said, "You ought always to pray and not faint."

God of all life and light, help us not to pray for easy lives;

but pray to be stronger women and men.

Help us not to pray for tasks equal to our powers,

but for power equal to our tasks and your work.

So that the doing of your work in our world will be no miracle—

but our openness to you and your power will be the miracle.

And every day we will wonder at ourselves and the richness of life

that has come to us by the grace of God.

Let us give praise to the living God!

*Hymn 1

Immortal, Invisible (1-3)

Walter C. Smith/St. Denio

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Hope (based on a prayer by African American Theologian Howard Thurman)

O Holy God,

open unto us

light for our darkness,

courage for our fear,

hope for our despair.

O loving God,

open unto us

wisdom for our confusion,

forgiveness for our sins,

love for our hate.

O God of peace,
**open unto us
peace for our turmoil,
joy for our sorrow,
strength for our weakness.**

O generous God,
**open our hearts
to receive all your gifts,
to be the people you need us to be,
to do the work you need us to do. Amen.**

Time of Silence and Words of Assurance

*Hymn of Praise

Immortal, Invisible

Walter C. Smith/St. Denio

*So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light, your angels adore you, all veiling their sight.
All praise we now render as your angels do: In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.*

WE ENGAGE

From the Story of David, Goliath, and King Saul

I Samuel 17:1-40 (cond.)

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. King Saul and the Israelites gathered and encamped in the valley of Elah and formed ranks against the Philistines. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armored with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him.

He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." . . . When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. . . .

For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening. Then Jesse said to his youngest son David, "Take [food] to your brothers and also to King Saul." David rose early in the morning, left someone in charge of the sheep, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. As he greeted his brothers, Goliath came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. All the Israelites, when they saw Goliath, fled from him and were very much afraid. David said to the men who stood by him, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

His eldest brother Eliab heard him talking to the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David. He said, "Why have you come down? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart; for you have come down just to see the battle." David said, "What have I done now? It was only a question." . . .

When David's words were repeated to King Saul, he sent for him. David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down. . . . The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you!"

Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

Sermon

Finding a Faith that Fits

A Time of Silent Reflection

A Musical Response

Nocturne in D-flat Major, Op. 27, No. 2

Frédéric Chopin

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (*Please pray a version of the Lord's prayer familiar to you.*)

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

William Williams/Cwm Rhondda

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison (3x)
(offered in support of all refugee parents)

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

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!

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!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Guest Pianist Jacquelyn Helin, D.M.A., Rev. Ben Larzelere, Vickie Sewing Liturgists; and Elijah Marquez, Social Media Coordinator, with assistance from volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Kim Zeilik, Louise Cavatta, Diane Darby, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata.

Steinway Artist Jacquelyn Helin was Music Director at United for 17 years. She retired in 2022 to focus on playing concerts, traveling with her husband, and climbing mountains. Her sold-out spring Resenan lecture-recital on Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* will be repeated this fall on September 26, Gershwin's birthday.

WHO'S OUR FAMILY?

Summer Sunday Children's Ministry

During the service, children and youth are invited first to check out the Food Depot Garden. Then they'll make cards for United's LGBTQIA+ members and friends in honor of Pride Month.

WHO'S OUR FAMILY? YOU, TOO!

Volunteer to help with Children's Summer Sundays

United has some great kids – and they're all our kids. You can help kids and families connect with United and with the love of God by volunteering to help one Sunday morning this morning with Children's Ministry. We'll provide the plans—you just need to sign up in the Community Room and show up on your Sunday. Let Karen Wilbanks or Talitha Arnold know you can help! (And also sign up in the Community Room.:-)

Adult Forum: Report from the Border – Today (11:15 am)

What is happening at the U.S./Mexico border? What is the impact on people and on the environment of the Border Wall? Is it working? Who are the people seeking asylum? Five United members (Melanie Lohmann, Steve Kerchoff, Sally and Kim Stewart, and youth Weston Puglisi) share their recent experiences at the border and the insights they gleaned.

HELP OUR FELLOWSHIP TIME BE ECO-FRIENDLY

Please join in the time for fellowship, coffee, and snacks after today's service. And when you're done, please put used cups and napkins in the compost bin in the Community Room. Thanks to Reunity Resources, they'll be turned into great compost!

Talitha Arnold on KSFR's "The Forum" – Tomorrow (Monday, June 24) at 6:00 pm – 101.1 FM

Talitha is a regular panelist on KSFR's "The Forum," airing Monday evenings. To quote KSFR, the Forum is "where prominent locals discuss important issues of the day in a hard-hitting but civilized manner." Tune in!

Pretty Good Guys – This Wednesday, June 26 (10:30-12:00)

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. They're also getting ready for their July 7 All Church Pancake Breakfast!

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

Explore next Sunday's scriptures with Talitha Arnold and United members and friends from across Santa Fe and across the country. Sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or speak with Talitha for more information.

SANTA FE PRIDE PARADE – NEXT SATURDAY, JUNE 29 – SIGN UP TODAY!

United Church is marching in the **31st Annual Pride Parade!** Meet in the PERA parking lot (corner of Old Santa Fe Trail and Paseo de Peralta) by 10:00 am. Wear your green United “Heart-Hands” T-shirt (you can buy one today) and a hat, sunscreen, and walking shoes. Bring a full water bottle. Sign up by this Thurs, June 27 in the Community Room or at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. More info: Pam Hyde (pshyde50@comcast.net) Let’s show our United Pride! Thank you!

Sunday Forums This Summer

What’s Ahead? – Santa Fe Today and Santa Fe Tomorrow

Inez Gomez, Opinion Page Editor, The New Mexican
Next Sunday, June 30 (11:15 am)

As part of United’s “What’s Happening, What’s Ahead for Santa Fe” series, we welcome Inez Gomez, a native New Mexican and Opinion Editor of the Santa Fe New Mexican to offer her bird’s-eye view. All welcome and bring friends (bring them to worship, too :-).

July 7

Pretty Good Guys’ All Church Really Good Pancake Breakfast

United’s Pretty Good Guys welcome everyone to enjoy darn good pancakes, sausage, & orange juice.

July 14

God’s Story from Around the World: United’s Sacred Art

Hispanic Catholic Santos and Bultos, Native American paintings and instruments, a Guatemalan Annunciation, a Ukrainian Nativity. All are part of United’s diverse collection of sacred folk art. See how the Christian story is shared by artists from around the world and also reflective of this corner of creation.

July 21

City Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth

Continuing United’s “What’s Happening, What’s Ahead for Santa Fe” series, we welcome Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth, a Santa Fe native and long-time City Councilor from United’s district.

It’s Time to Share—One Great Hour of Sharing

Throughout the U.S. and around the world, our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference. United invites your support for the ecumenical effort that impacts lives and addresses issues of poverty and access to education. You can also designate it for particular emergencies (e.g., earthquake relief, long-term development, or emergency needs for refugees on the U.S./Mexico border). Donate online (unitedchurchofsantafe.org) or by check (memo: OGHS). Thank you!

Summer Drive for the Food Depot

United offers many ways to support The Food Depot. If you have a garden at home, add an extra row and bring extra produce to United to go to the Depot. Or bring these items: cans/boxes of vegetables/fruit, pasta, rice; family-size packages, especially high-protein foods (dried beans, canned meats, soups); baby foods (powdered formula, cereal, jars); diapers. Monetary donations welcome: online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org or check (memo “Food Depot”). Thank you!

United Church Commits to Love God, Neighbor, and Creation in a Whole Lot of Ways

From supporting our Diné/Navajo sisters and brothers to providing relief resettlement for Afghan, Central American, and Ukrainian refugees to feeding hungry people in Santa Fe and helping persons recovering from New Mexico’s devastating fires to composting waste into life-giving compost, United seeks to love our neighbors and God’s creation in all kinds of ways. Go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to find out more!

“United Church Night” at Fuego Baseball Game!

Sunday, July 21 — 5:30 pm (sign up by Wednesday, July 13)

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, lead the National Anthem, meet the players, get discounted tickets, and have United Church 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.

Smith’s Community Inspiring Donations Program

United receives a percentage on all purchases at Smith’s when you use your Smith’s *rewards* card at check out at additional cost to you. Register your *rewards* card online (smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations), sign into your account, look for “Inspiring Donations Program”, and type in “The United Church of Santa Fe.” Thanks!

For your protection, please do not leave valuables visible in your car. Please remember to always lock your car when attending services or events at United. Thank you!