



# The 50 Days of Eastertide

**A Service of the Word  
for  
The Second Sunday of Eastertide  
April 7, 2024**

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

### **For Reflection:**

Goodness is stronger than evil;  
Love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness;  
Life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours through the One who loved us.

Desmond Tutu, Former Episcopal Bishop of South Africa

### **WE GATHER**

Gathering Music/Prelude

*Thine Is the Glory* from *Judas Maccabeus*

G.F. Handel

\*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

**"Christos anesti!" ("Aleithos anesti!")**

**"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

*Halleluja* (2x)

Caribbean Melody

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.  
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

The Call to Worship

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. Shout for joy and sing your praise to God!

\*Hymn

423

*Great Is Your Faithfulness* (1-2)

Thomas Chisholm/Faithfulness

## WE PREPARE

In a Prayer of Invocation

**We praise you, O God, that by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have delivered us from the power of death, making us alive to serve you. Free us from pride of self that we may live in community with one another and with all your people. Free us from fear of principalities and powers of this world that we may live and speak with courage, guided by your Spirit. Keep us rooted and grounded in your love, and fill us with the power of your Spirit. Be glorified in our life together that all people might see your love and your hope in their lives. Amen.**

In a Time of Silent Prayer and the Affirmation of Grace

\*In a Song of Praise

*Great Is Your Faithfulness*

Thomas Chisholm/Faithfulness

*Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,  
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.  
Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed your hand has provided,  
Great is your faithfulness, God unto me!*

## WE ENGAGE

“Doubting” Thomas’ First-hand Faith

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 for fear of the Jews, 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 our Creator has sent me, so I send you.” . . .

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 230 *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* (1-2, 4) John of Damascus/St. Kevin

Reflections from Church Council Members

*Knowing Resurrection*

Sarah Sawtell, United Church Moderator

Tom Stewart, Council Secretary

Bob Ansheles, Property and Maintenance Ministry Chair

Karen Wilbanks, Children's and Youth Ministry Chair

Silent Reflection

Musical Response 273 *Praise with Joy the World's Creator* (1-2, 4) Iona/Lauda Anima

### WE RESPOND

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

### WE GO IN PEACE

\*Hymn 245 *The Day of Resurrection* John of Damascus/Lancashire

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction *God Be with You till We Meet Again* Jeremiah Rankin

*God be with you till we meet again; by good counsel guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold 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.*

*God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,  
Put unfailing arms around 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.*

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### 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!

Today's worship leader is Church Council member Karen Wilbanks. Other Church Council members sharing leadership are Sarah Sawtell, Tom Steward, and Bob Ansheles. Dr. Jessie Lo is the pianist; and running the livestream are volunteers Frank Wilbanks and Sam Elkind (also Church Treasurer). You were greeted by Char and Bruce Cebell, Louise Cavatta, Blanca Surgeon, and Luis Zapata (Sunday Aide).

### We Invited 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!

Today, Talitha is preaching and leading worship at the Wellesley Village United Church of Christ in Wellesley, MA. She will be at Yale Divinity School tomorrow and returns late Tuesday night. Next Sunday we welcome 25+ youth and their advisors from the Wellesley UCC Church as our guests in worship!

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month.

**Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of Mark – Thursday Mornings, April 11 & 18 at 8:00 (MT) on Zoom**

Engage the Gospel of Mark, start to finish (don’t worry – it’s the shortest Gospel), using the United Church of Christ Study Guide (written by Talitha). Register/Info: [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com). All welcome!

**Get to Know United – Next Sunday’s Forum, April 14—11:15**

Would you like more info about the United Church of Santa Fe—who we are, what we believe, what we do, how we’re organized, etc., etc. Sign up to join the April 14 Forum! It’s a great way to get acquainted!

A Memorial Service to give thanks for the life of Mary Noonan and commit her soul to God’s eternal light will be this Saturday, April 13 at 11:00 am at United. All welcome.

**Women’s Study Group - Wednesday, April 17 (10:00 am)**

All women welcome. We conclude our reading of Douglas Preston’s *The Lost City of the Monkey God*. For more info, please contact the church office (505-988-3295).

**Youth/Adult Border Trip – Late May/early June (May 26/27 to 30/31)**

Plans are in the works for an Intergenerational Border Trip to Arizona/Sonora (Mexico) the week of Memorial Day (leaving either that Sunday or Monday, returning Thursday or Friday). All middle and high school youth and adults are invited. If you’re interested, please let Talitha know.

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS – SUNDAY, APRIL 21**

On the 4th Sunday of Eastertide, we welcome new members into United Church of Santa Fe. If you are interested in “officially” joining United, please speak with Rev. Talitha Arnold or Moderator Sarah Sawtell. Thank you!

**Santa Fe River Clean Up – 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](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com). All Creation thanks you!

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

Go online to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://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](http://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](http://reunityresources.com) or call Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700). Thanks.

**Building a World Without Nuclear Weapons – An Urgent Imperative**

**Wed., April 24 (6:00 – 8:00 pm) at Santa Maria de la Paz Catholic Church**

With Santa Maria de la Paz, United is hosting a conversation on nuclear disarmament – religious, philosophical, political, and practical aspects of this complex issue, including suggestions for “Action Steps.” Catholic Archbishop John C. Wester focused his January 2022 Pastoral letter on *Living in the Light of Christ’s Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament*. United community invited to join the discussion at Santa Maria, Wed., April 24. Info: [AvrilEkstrand@yahoo.com](mailto:AvrilEkstrand@yahoo.com).

**Desert Chorale’s Santa Fe Sings!**

**Saturday, April 27 at United**

United is proud to be the home of the annual choral workshop *Santa Fe Sings!*, sponsored by the Desert Chorale and led by their music director, Joshua Habermann. This takes place on Sat., April 27. Check-in and coffee hour begins at 8:45 am, and the workshop culminates in a 2:00 pm informal performance in our sanctuary. For more information or to register, go to: [desertchorale.org/concerts-events/santa-fe-sings/](http://desertchorale.org/concerts-events/santa-fe-sings/).

**Coro Lux Concert: An Afternoon at the Movies**

**Sunday, April 28, 4:00 and 6:00 pm**

The *Coro Lux* Chamber Chorus (directed by Brad 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/](http://abqcorolux.org/tickets/).

**Coro Lux Concert: Carmina Burana**

**Friday & Saturday, May 3 & 4, 7:00 pm**

*Coro Lux* presents Carl Orff’s epic cantata *Carmina Burana*, with professional soloists and dancers (United’s Jessie Lo is pianist for this event). St. Paul Lutheran Church (in Albuquerque). Tickets: [abqcorolux.org/tickets/](http://abqcorolux.org/tickets/).