

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD
IN
CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION**

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20, 2025

10:00 A.M.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ**



Reflections for Easter Sunday 2025

If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantments of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things artificial, the alienation from the sources of our strength.

Rachel Carson (1907 – 1964)
Marine Biologist, Author, Conservationist

The proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I say this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well, but as one who has faced the cross in all its obscenity as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God. In the end, God's will, not ours is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. *The end is life*. Christ's life and our lives through Christ, in Christ. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord *has* risen.

The Magnificent Defeat
Frederick Buechner (1926-2022)

WE GATHER

(Please turn off cell phones on entering the Sanctuary.)

Gathering Music

Romanze in F, Op. 118, No. 2
In Christ Alone

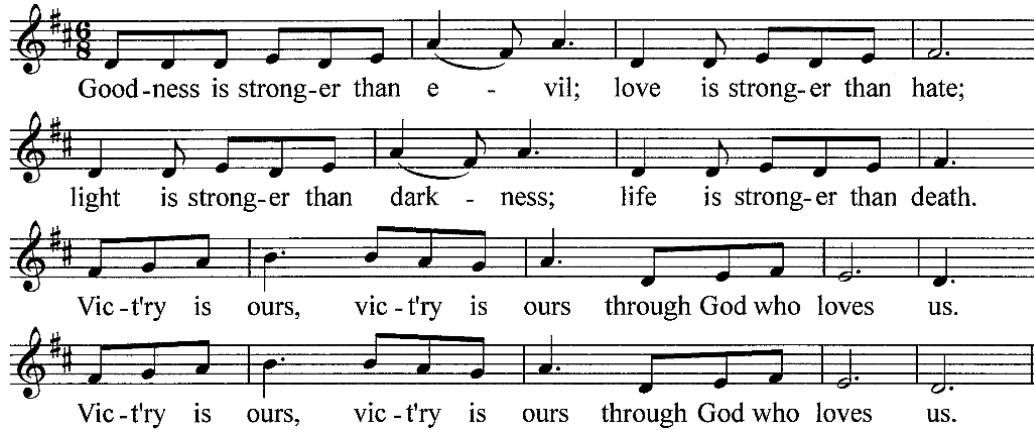
Johannes Brahms
Keith Getty/arr. Heather Sorenson

Trumpet Fanfare

*Introit

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil (2x)
(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu/John Bell



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

*Sharing the Easter Proclamation from Christian and Navajo/Diné Traditions

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

"Christ is risen!" ("Risen indeed!")

"Beauty is restored again!" ("Restored indeed!")

*Regathering

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil (1x)

Tutu/Bell

Welcoming of Visitors and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

GOD'S CALL TO NEW LIFE

From Psalm 30 of the Hebrew Bible (**congregation bold**)

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

**O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.**

**O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.**

Sing praises to the Lord, O you faithful ones,
and give thanks to God's holy name.

Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

**You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and girded me with gladness,**

so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Silence

From "A Canticle of Creation"

All Your Works of the Lord

Kenneth Jennings

From the Navajo/Diné *Blessingway* (as told by Diné Singer Slim Curly, trans. by Fr. Berard Haile)

I have ascended.

Now I am Boy-with-whom-dawn-appeared

as I ascended.

To the summit of Mt. Taylor,

I have ascended.

To the summit of chief mountain,

I have ascended.

In turquoise moccasins,

I ascended,

In turquoise black-seamed moccasins,

I ascended.

In turquoise leggings,

I ascended,

In turquoise legging fringes,

I ascended.

A turquoise perfect disc shell was my headplume

as I ascended.

Sun's surroundings are now my surrounding

as I ascended, ascended.

Sun's pollen with pollen of various jewels breezed on me

as I ascended.

It is pollen of one never decreasing, of one unequalled in beauty which breezed on me

as I ascended.

By this I was transformed into jewels

as I ascended.

Now I am long life, now I am happiness

as I ascended.

Behind me it is blessed

as I ascended,

Before me it is blessed

as I ascended,

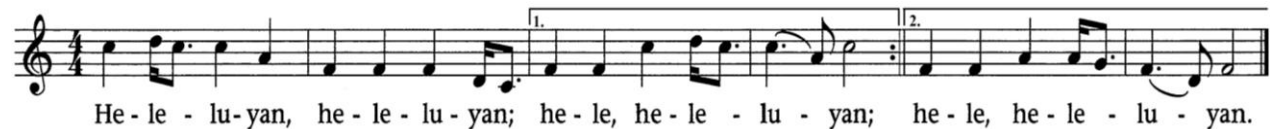
I have ascended, *o ye*.

Silence

Song

Heleluyan

(Soloist first, then Family Choir, then the whole congregation stands and sings twice.)



*Our Proclamation of Faith

Sing to the Lord a new song for God has done marvelous things! ;Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ;Aleluya!

Sing to the God of new life! ;Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ;Aleluya!

Sing to the Lord who brings light to the world and joy in the morning!

;Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ;Aleluya!

Sing to the Lord who brings life out of death and victory over the grave!

;Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ;Aleluya! ;Aleluya! ;Aleluya!

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing,
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led,

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say:
 Where, O death, is now your sting?
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save,
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise,

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply:
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation (based on a sermon of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

We praise you, O God, that by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
 You have shown us time and again, you are able,
able to deliver us from the power of death,
able to make a way out of no way,
able to overcome our fears with your love and new life.

Give us the courage to entrust our lives to you and the faith to know that you are able,
able to transform desolate valleys into sunlit paths of joy,
able to bring new life into the dark caverns of pessimism,
able to help us face the uncertainties of the future
and turn dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.

May our faith in you be our hope for being better human beings.

May the power of your new life be our mandate to make a better world for all your people. Amen.

A Time for Silent Prayer

***Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given. Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now. Alleluia! Hail, the Resurrection thou! Alleluia!***

*(During the song, children are invited to Children's Ministry with Family Ministry Director Dana Bender
and Children's Ministry Aides Destiny Muñoz and Maria Navarette. They return after the sermon.)*

WE ENGAGE THE STORY

The Story of this Day (cong. in bold—Mary of Magdala's part)

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, **"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."** Then the two disciples set out and ran towards the tomb. The other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. Going in, they saw only the linen cloths and the napkin that had been on his head. Then they returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, **"They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."** When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, **"Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."** Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, **"Rabbouni!"** (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to God our Creator. But go to my disciples and say to them, 'I am ascending to my God and your God.'" Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, **"I have seen the Lord,"** and she told them that he had said these things to her.

A Song of Resurrection

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Now the Green Blade Rises (1-3)

John M.C. Crum/French Noel

The Easter Message

Whom Are You Seeking?

Silent Reflection

The Affirmation in Song

In Thee Is Gladness

arr. Dan Kallman

WE RESPOND

Responding with Our Prayers (based on the writings of John Muir, Amanda Gorman, and Jeffrey Rowthorn)

God of ceaseless new beginnings, you have done the completely unexpected deed. In the Resurrection, you faced down death and raised Jesus Christ to life.

¡Gracias a Dios!

You transformed frightened disciples and ordinary women into your witnesses for new life in this world.

Even now, you turn despair into wonder and fill all creation with hope.

¡Gracias a Dios!

On this Easter, transform our lives that we might transform this world.

Help us trust your Resurrection power in each of our lives and all life.

Señor, escúchanos.

Creating God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

Open our eyes and ears to your world born new with each sunrise.

Open our hearts and minds to the possibility contained in every seed, every person, every breath.

Señor, escúchanos.

Redeeming God, you are the One whom we seek, the One who calls us by name.
The One who gathers up the fragments of our lives and create new possibilities.
The One who comes to us not in a blaze of glory, but the garb of a gardener.
The One turns our mourning into dancing, who takes off our sackcloth and girds us gladness.
The One who turned the cross of death into the Tree of Life.

¡Gracias al Señor!

Loving God, you embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Make us channels of your love for all peoples and all creation.
Give us the courage to dream your new world, your beloved community of life and all its glory.

¡Gracias al Señor!

Hear now our prayers we offer in the silence of our hearts.

(A time of silent prayer)

We pray in the name of the Risen Christ, your word of love made flesh in our world, your Tree of Life for all creation, your Incarnate Word who taught us to pray to you with boldness, courage—and most of all—trust, saying: *(Please pray the Lord's Prayer in a version familiar to you.)*

Offering Symbols of New Life 433 ***In Bulb There Is a Flower*** Natalie Sleeth/Promise
(Children and youth are invited to come forward to receive Sunflower Planting Packs as the congregation sings.)

Responding with Our Resources ***What Wondrous Love Is This*** American Folk Hymn
(Today's Easter offering goes to support United's partners in caring for creation, including Santa Fe Watershed Association, Reunity Resources for composting, and Tree New Mexico and New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light for our Carboni Offset programs. We invite you to be generous. You can also donate online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you!)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

WE GO WITH PRAISE

*Hymn ***Yours Is the Glory*** Judas Maccabeus
(If you wish to sing "The Hallelujah Chorus," please join the choir at the front during the hymn.)

***Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.
Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away; Conquered is the grave in which your body lay.
Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.***

***See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared; Do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing; Tell it without ceasing: Death has lost its sting.
Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.***

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*Reading the Names
(We remember members and friends in the congregation who died this past year. You are also invited to name others.)

*A Moment of Silence to Remember

*Benediction and ***The Hallelujah Chorus*** from *Messiah* George Frederick Handel



Welcome to the United Church of Santa Fe!

We're glad you have joined in this Easter Celebration and invite you to join 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 Easter!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Minister; Composer Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Dr. Michelle Schumann, Pianist; Dana Bender, Family Ministry Director; the Sanctuary Choir; Fernando Hernandez and Cole Pitre, trumpet; Blanca Surgeon, Althea Hay, and Luke Rand Liturgists; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez, with Audio Tech Frank Wilbanks. Many thanks also to the Sacred Space Team, Children's Aides Destiny Munoz and Maria Navarette; Sunday Aide Luiz Zapata; greeters and ushers (organized by Diane Darby); Reception Coordinator Louise Cavatta and her crew; and Office Administrator Lin Raymond. And thanks to all of you who joined in this wonderful morning!

After the service, **children and youth are invited to the Easter Piñata Party** outside at the back of the church. Adults are also invited to watch the fun and/or just enjoy conversation, coffee, and cupcakes outside, too.



Being Christian: What Does It Mean, What Does It Matter? – Sunday, May 4

Rev. Peter Marty, Publisher of *The Christian Century*

We welcome renowned preacher Rev. Peter Marty as our guest in both the 10:00 service and the 11:15 Sunday Forum. Rev. Marty is publisher of *The Christian Century*, the flagship journal of American progressive Christianity and ecumenical reporting. He also recently retired as the Senior Pastor for St. Paul Lutheran Church, a 3,000-member congregation in Davenport, Iowa. A graduate of Colorado College and Yale Divinity School, he and Talitha Arnold are close friends and colleagues. It is an honor to welcome him to the United Church of Santa Fe.

What Does It Mean to Be a Christian Community in America 2025?

All Church Retreat – Saturday, May 10 (8:30 am to 1:00 pm)

As United looks to the future (and deals with the present), what does our faith call us to do and be as a community seeking to walk in the ways of Jesus the Christ? Join with United Church council and other leaders to explore this question and look with faith to God's future for United. Please sign up today.

FOOD, FUN AND GAMES – SUNDAY, MAY 18

Plan to stay after the 10:00 service on Sunday, May 18 for an All Church, All Ages Lunch and Outdoor Games!

More information to come—but save the date now!

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS – SUNDAY, MAY 18

On the 5th Sunday of Eastertide, we welcome new members into the United Church of Santa Fe. If you are interested in “officially” joining United, please speak with Rev. Talitha Arnold, Moderator Sarah Sawtell, or Discipleship Chair Diane Darby. Thank you!

LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, CREATION

That's Our Goal at the United Church of Santa Fe – in a host of ways!

More info at unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

Love Neighbor . . .

- Monthly Suppers for Interfaith Shelter, St. E's, and Casa Familia. (Pat Roach, 505-988-7357)
- Ukrainian, Palestinian, and Sudanese Refugee Relief, Navajo/Diné support; Communities in Schools, Border Ministries, and more.

Love Creation. . .

- *Compost for Creation* (with Reunity Resources), *Carbon Offset Program* (with NM Interfaith Power and Light; Tree New Mexico); *SF River Cleanup* (with SF Watershed Assoc.) Sat., May 17 (8:30-10:00 am)

Fellowship/Study Groups

Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday, April 23 (10:30 am)

Wednesday Women's Study Group – May 7 (10:00 am)

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

Special Remembrances (2025)

The Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary and outside worship are given to the glory of God and . . .

In Loving Memory Of:

Rev. Homer & Mary Louise Akers
Elizabeth Standring Arnold & Lee Arnold
Dr. & Mrs. A.A. Ashby
Dr. Charles & Jean Ashby
Sherman & Kathryn Ashby
Marshall Bagley
Blaine Harlow Baker
Annie Balocating
Cliff Beck
Gardner & Florence Black
John Bray-Morris
Rev. Betsy Bueschel
Rhae Burden
William Burnett
Kaye Burr
Rev. Robert Burt
Dr. & Mrs. W.A. Cassidy
Merry & Al Converse
James E. Corbin
U. Lee & Nora B. Corbin
John Benjamin Crews
Rev. Dr. David Daniels
Rebecca Donohue
Nikki Elkind
Ellingboe Parents & Grandparents
Billi Faillettaz
Yvonne Fairchild
John A. Feldt
Moira & Richard Flanagan
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fricke
John Garman & Levone Kail
Rev. Paul Gaston
Michael A. Granito
Rev. Mary & Rev. Shirley Greene
Susan Greig
Claude Hayes
Patricia & Luther H. Hoopes
Alda Jansen
Henk Jansen
August & Dorothy Johnson
Martha Kaplan
Steven Kerchoff
Jean Knapp
Maggi Konzen
Brett Lindsey
Bea Loennecke
Rev. Mary Ann Lundy
Dr. Martin Marty

Leon & Chris Mattingly
Phyllis McDonald
Monica Merchand
Jean & John Mills
Carla Muth
Mary Noonan
Loved Ones [Janet Harris]
Dorothy Patinka
Mildred & Merrill Peppard
Suzanne Poling
Jean & David Popp
Flossie Shamblen Pruden
Rev. Francis Rath
Carma Rickertsen
Joyce Riddick
Olivia Angelic Rindone-Dodson
Monty Roessel
Gladys & Ed Rutschman
Gary Salman
Stephen & Helen Sawtell
Gloria & William Sawtell
Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Sawtell, Sr.
Claire Standring Schoenfelder
Marge & Bud Sewing
Rev. Dr. Reuben A. Sheares, II
Beatrice Pruden Skeen
Grace Dexter Skeen
Talitha B. & T. Wirt Standring
John Blanding Stewart
Trudy Swint's Grandmothers
Rico Tapia
Sandy Vermillion
Ruben Vigil
Edward & Edith Vogel
Helen Wagner
Barbara Wheeler
Ben Whitehill
Fountain & Pat Wilson
Harold & Anne Wooldridge
Marie Pruden Young

In Grateful Honor and with Love for:

In gratitude for the staff and congregation of UCSF
Rev. Talitha Arnold
The Family of Caroline Burnett
Rev. Joan Bates Forsberg
Byron Harris
Gail Mattson