

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for
REFORMATION SUNDAY**

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

**October 27, 2024
10:00 A.M.**

God is already here.

For Reflection:

The Christian's prayer is easy, and it does not cause hard work.
For it proceeds in faith on the basis of the promise of God,
and it presents its need from the heart.

Martin Luther, *The Small Catechism*

WE GATHER

(May the first note of the Prelude be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship.)

Gathering Music *Prelude & Fugue in D Major from The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I* J.S. Bach

*Introit ***We Gather Together*** Kremser
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

***We gather together to ask for God's blessing,
To turn to a wisdom surpassing our own.
The powers that oppress us, now cease to distress us,
O God, be present with us, and make your will known.***

Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

Blessed. . . to be a Blessing! – Campaign for United 2025 Trudy Swint, Stewardship/Finance Chair

Breathing in and Sharing God's Gifts *Blessing for this Blessed Day!*

*Regathering and Breathing in God's Gifts Again ***We Gather Together*** Kremser

Musical Call to Worship *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* Anonymous German/trans. Walworth

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 8 ***Praise to the Living God*** (1-3) Curtis Beach/Diademata

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation by Howard Thurman (20th c. African American Theologian)

O Holy God,
open unto us
light for our darkness,
courage for our fear,
hope for our despair.

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

O loving God,
open unto us
wisdom for our confusion,
forgiveness for our sins,
love for our hate.

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.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

*Our Song of Praise

Praise to the Living God

Curtis Beach/Diademata

*Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.*

WE ENGAGE WITH WORD AND SONG

From the Wisdom Literature known as the Book of Job

Job's Answer to His Friends

Job 19:1-4, 19-20

"O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock for ever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

Reflection

What We Know

Silence

A Musical Affirmation

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (BWV 80)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Chorus:

*A stronghold sure is God our Lord, whose strength will never fail us.
He keeps us free from all the horde of troubles that assail us.
Our ever-evil foe, would fain work us woe,
With might and deep guile, he plans his projects vile. On earth is not one like him.*

Aria (Duet Soprano, Bass):

Soprano: *Standing alone are we undone, the fiend would soon enslave us. In our own strength were we undone, the fiend would soon enslave us. But for us fights a mighty one, whom God has sent to save us. Ask ye, who this be? Christ Jesus is he. Lord God of Sabaoth. There is no other God. He can and will uphold us.*

Bass: *Ev'ry soul by God created, has by Christ been liberated. They who Jesus' standard bear, to his service dedicated, all will in his vict'ry share. Ev'ry soul by God created, has by Christ been liberated.*

Recitative (Bass):

Thou child of God, consider what complete devotion the Savior showed for you in His supreme atonement, whereby He rose triumphant over Satan’s Horde and human sin and error and all things base. Let not, then, in your being, the Evil One have any place! Let not your sins convert the Heaven there within you, into a desert! Repent now of your guilt in tears, that Christ the Lord to you be fast united.

Aria (Soprano):

Come dwell within my heart, Lord Jesus, I adore Thee. Bid evil all depart, and let Thine image ever shine before me. Out sin, how base thou art, begone. Come dwell within my heart, Lord Jesus I adore Thee.

Chorus:

*Though fiends appear on every hand, and eager to devour,
We need not fear, we can withstand and baffle all their power.
The Arch Fiend of all, shall not us appall,
His might is laid low, he cannot strike a blow,
One word from God will fell him.*

Recitative (Tenor):

So take thy stand with Jesus’ blood-bespattered banner, O soul of mine, and trust thee ever in His pow’r divine! Yea, He will lend His might to gain for thee thy crown of glory. Go joyous forth to fight! If thou but hear God’s Word and do as He commands thee, no foe, however mighty, can withstand thee. Salvation now is sure, thy refuge is secure.

Duet (Alto, Tenor):

Blest he who praises God, whose Words will sanctify him. More blessed still is he who bears Him in his heart. With Him will grace abound nor can the foe come nigh him. At that will he be crowned when death shall set him free.

Silent Reflection

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Prayer of Our Savior *(Please pray any version of the Lord’s Prayer.)*

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther/arr. J.S. Bach

*The Word of God will firm abide against our foes assailing,
For God will battle on our side, an ally never failing.
Though they take from me here all that I hold dear I will not complain,
Their gladness is in vain, God’s might is all prevailing.*

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison (3x)

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

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!

Thank You to All Who Made Today's Service Possible

Many thanks to all who made today's offering of "Ein Feste Berg" possible. In addition to the musicians listed on the insert, other worship leaders include Rev. Talitha Arnold; Liturgist (to be announced); and Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez. A special thank you to Cheney Doane for subbing as choir director and pianist over this month. You were greeted by Barbara Christiano, Joan and Dave Doolittle, Pam Hyde, and Sunday Aide Luiz Zapata. Let's extend our thanks to all!

Adult Forum Series: "To Seek Christ's Face" – Images of Jesus in Art Through the Ages – Starts Today!

As United explores who Jesus was and is for us, join Molly Elkind for a four-week exploration of images of Jesus in art, from the days in the catacombs to the present. What can we learn from the ways in which Jesus has been and is today portrayed in visual terms? Here's the schedule (come to all or whichever ones you can):

- Oct. 27: *Christ as Good Shepherd, Teacher and Sage*
- Nov. 17: *Christ on the Cross, Resurrected and Reformed*
- Nov. 3: *Christ Pantocrator, Blessing and Sustaining*
- Nov. 24: *Christ Among Us, Son of Man and Bread of Heaven*

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.

NEXT SUNDAY, November 3 – Daylight Savings Ends – Fall back an hour

All Saints Sunday – Wear Red!

We share Communion in both 8:30 and 10:00 services and remember the saints we have known and loved.

TWO FORUMS! (11:15 am)

What's Happening at the New Mexico Border

Avril Ekstrand and Melanie Lohmann of United's Immigration and Refugee Task Force recently traveled to southern New Mexico to visit refugee shelters and talk with people along the border. They share an update about this issue which is a major part of the Presidential and state elections.

"To Seek Christ's Face" – Christ as Good Shepherd, Teacher and Sage (see Forum Series above)

Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls – Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (via Zoom)

Explore the Gospel of Mark with Talitha Arnold. Sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com

A Memorial Service to give thanks for the life of Dr. Cliff Beck and commit his soul to God's eternal light and love is this Friday, November 1, 10:00 am at United. All welcome.

"Exploring the Pandemic's Impact on Congregations" (EPIC) National Survey

In 2022, our congregation was chosen as one of 300 churches nationwide for a 5-year study of the pandemic's impact on their life and ministry. Led by the Hartford Institute and funded by the Lilly Endowment, the EPIC study this year includes all participants from each church—which means all United members and friends. Please take the survey: covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GYI89a3NMOwuFw?congregation=99202 by November 15. Questions? Please contact Pastor Talitha Arnold. Thank you!

UNITED CHURCH SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE AND ROSWELL RELIEF

United invites your donations (online: unitedchurchofsantafe.org; or by check (memo: "Hurricane or Roswell Relief") to send to the United Church of Christ's disaster ministries, already at work in the affected regions. Thank you!

Voices of Hope and Peace – Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem

Santa Fe Symphony Chorus at St. Francis Cathedral

This Afternoon—3:00 pm (Free—come early for a good seat!)

The SF Symphony Chorus, directed Carmen Florez-Mansi (a former student of Bradley Ellingboe's) offers Ralph Vaughan Williams' cantata for peace, written in 1936 as a cry for hope. The concert also includes the new Symphony Children's Chorus and Youth Choral Scholars. Elizabeth Roghair, Joan Snider, and Talitha Arnold sing with the Symphony Chorus.

Prayer and Worship in Election Week

Monday, Nov. 4

5:30 pm – Simple Worship Service of prayer and readings.

Tuesday, Nov. 5

United's Sanctuary open all day (8:00 to 6:00) for prayer.

Wednesday, Nov. 6

12:00 noon Prayer Service

SPECIAL OFFERINGS IN THE WINGS:

Thursday, Nov. 14, 10:00 am "Move Well, Move Often" (at United) with retired Physical Therapy Professor Margy Maira (on balance, mobility, etc.)

Thursday, Nov. 7 and Nov. 14 (3:30 to 5:00)—"Moses and Jesus Go to the Movies" Renesan Presentation by Talitha Arnold at Jean Cocteau Theater (register: tinyurl.com/Renesan)

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, BWV 80
Johann Sebastian Bach

Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music

Soloists:

Rebecca Brunette, soprano
Quiara Cortez, soprano
Yasmeen Lookman, alto

Nicholas Jones, tenor
Steven Kerchoff, bass

Festival Choir:

Soprano

Rebecca Brunette
Cynde Christie
Quiara Cortez
Cindi Duncan
Linda Eccard
Laurie Romero
Diane Johnston
Lauren Smith
Jody Spalding
Kathleen Wilson

Alto

Candy Elkjer
Leslie Fagre
Janet Harris
Carol Hilt
Yasmeen Lookman
Susan Phillips
Maggie Popp
Melanie Ranney
Marty Wilder
June Yoder

Tenor

Ed Barker
Nicholas Jones
Les Niemi
Bruce Turnquist
Scott Wagner
Fred Yoder

Bass

Bill Elkjer
Steven Kerchoff
Burke Lokey
Larry Rasmussen
Peter Spalding

Orchestra:

David Felberg, 1st violin
Carla Kontoupes, 2nd violin
Laura Steiner, viola

Amy Huzjak, cello
Elaine Heltman, oboe
Dr. Jacquelyn Helin, piano

Blessed. . . to be a Blessing!

Campaign for United 2025

A Weekend with Composer/Pianist Ken Medema

Saturday, Nov. 9 – 3:00 pm “Cookies and Conversation; 4:00 pm Concert

Sunday, Nov. 10 – 10:00 am Worship Service & 11:15 am Forum

(Both Saturday concert and Sunday Service in-person and livestreamed)

The highlight of United’s “Campaign 2025” this fall is the return of composer/pianist Ken Medema for our **Saturday, November 9, Cookies, Conversation, and Concert.**” If you haven’t rsvp’ed already, please do so today. Sign up in the Community Room or call the church office (505-988-3295) or email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Thanks!

Music has always been at the heart of United’s life and ministry. Even when we couldn’t afford a pianist, much less a choir director or choral scholars, the congregation loved to sing. And we’ve always sung all kinds of music—Classical, Global, Spirituals and Gospel, Hispanic, Jewish—and in many different languages, from English to Hawaiian to Arabic.

Our pledges of financial support make possible all this music-making—and not only on regular Sunday mornings. United’s annual operating budget underwrites special musical programs like today’s Bach Cantata (complete with a 6-piece orchestra); our annual “FebFest” of African American sacred music (in partnership with *Coro Lux*); the summer Opera Apprentices; and guest musicians to enhance worship on a regular basis.

In addition, United’s sanctuary and pianos are used by many other Santa Fe musical groups, from the Desert Chorale and the Santa Fe Symphony to children’s and youth recitals of private music teachers. Our pledges underwrite ongoing maintenance of the building to provide this beautiful space. As you’ve probably experienced with your own home, building maintenance and repair costs have risen dramatically in the last few years. Your increased or new pledge will be a blessing to United and the wider Santa Fe community now and in the years to come.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration and your generous pledge to United 2025. Your support is a blessing to United—that enables us to bless the lives of others!

