



Bible Quilt (1895-8, detail) – Harriet Powers (African American folk artist)

**A Service of the Word
for
The Sixth Sunday of Epiphany
February 9, 2025 – 10:00 A.M.
The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ**

For Reflection:

“See? See what you can do? Never mind you can’t tell one letter from another, never mind you born a slave, never mind you lose your name, never mind your daddy dead, never mind nothing. Here, this here, is what a man can do if he puts his mind to it and his back in it. Stop sniveling,” [the land] said. “Stop picking around the edges of the world. Take advantage, and if you can’t take advantage, take disadvantage. We live here. On this planet, in this nation, in this county right here. Nowhere else! We got a home in this rock, don’t you see!”

Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*

*There must be always remaining in every life,
some place for the singing of angels,
some place for that which in itself is breathless and beautiful.*

Howard Thurman, 20th c. Protestant theologian and preacher
who inspired the leaders of the U.S. Civil Rights movement

WE GATHER

Music for Gathering

*Introit

We've Come This Far by Faith (2x)
(*Please rise in body or spirit)

Albert A. Goodson

We've come this far by faith, Lean - ing on our God;
Trust - ing in the ho - ly word, God's nev - er failed us yet.
Oh Can't turn a - round, We've come this far by faith.

Words and Music - ©1965, 1993 Manna Music. Used by Permission. OneLicense.net #A-711427

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Musical Call to Worship

Walk in the Light

André Thomas

Call to Worship from the United Church of Christ (**congregation in 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 sing our praise to the living God!

*Hymn

293

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Doris Akers

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Hope (based on a prayer by 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.**

Silent Prayer and Words of Assurance

*Our Song of Commitment

*Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise,
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.*

(During the hymn, children are invited to Children's Ministry with Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.)

WE ENGAGE

The Vision of the Prophets

Isaiah 6:1-9

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of God's robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above the Lord; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of God's glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am

a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" And God said, "Go."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Hymn 604

Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name

African American Spiritual/arr. Jeffrey Radford

A Trialogue Sermon

Come and Go

Dr. Brandon Boyd, Director of Music Bradley Ellingboe, Rev. Talitha Arnold

Time of Silence

Musical Response

Come and Go to That Land

Brandon Boyd

WE RESPOND

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

(based on prayers of Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

God of power and might, God of compassion and mercy, you alone are worthy of praise.

We thank you for being with us this day.

We thank you for the witness of hope and faith we have heard and sung this morning.

We thank you and we pray your blessing upon us and on your world.

(silent prayer)

As you called those who have gone before, you call us now
to your vision of a land of peace and joy,
a place where fear and hatred have no place.

Open our eyes and our hearts, O Lord, to the places in our land and all lands,
that are so far from that vision,
and where you need us to be bearers of your love and hope.

Lord, we need your help to fulfill that calling, to go deep into your world
and deeper still into your love and light.

And so we pray:

Open unto us – light for our shadows.

Open unto us – courage for our fear and hope for our despair.

Open unto us – peace for our turmoil and joy for our sorrow.

Open unto us – strength for our weakness and wisdom for our confusion.

Open unto us – thy Self for ourselves.

Lord, Lord, open unto us!

(silent prayer)

Guide us in our journey.

lest we stumble in the shadows and lose our way.

Give to our faltering footsteps the great, strong rhythm of the purposes of God.

We pray in the name of the One who showed us your way, who opened us to your love that even death could not destroy, and who taught us to pray together with boldness, courage, and trust, saying . . .

(Please pray any version of the Lord's prayer.)

Offering Our Gifts and the Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

All that we have and all that we are comes from your gracious hand, O Lord. Bless these gifts we offer this day. Use them and use our lives so that all people might know your love and hope. Amen.

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn	81	<i>God Be with You</i> (st. 1-3)	Jeremiah Rankin/William Tomer
*Benediction			
*Musical Benediction	81	<i>God Be with You</i> (st. 4)	Jeremiah Rankin/William Tomer

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!

We're glad you've joined in worship this morning and invite you to share in upcoming programs, study groups, and outreach ministries. If you're visiting United, please take time to sign the guest register and also pick up the newsletter and other information as you leave. Again, welcome!

It is our honor and delight to welcome the nationally known composer and conductor Dr. Brandon Boyd, who has been our guest for this FebFest weekend. Dr. Boyd is the Director of Choral Programs and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Missouri-Columbia. An active composer and arranger, his music is sung regularly by ensembles throughout the United States and abroad. He is well known to the Santa Fe community since 2017 when he was the Composer-in-Residence with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, during which time he also helped start the Chorale's "Hearts in Harmony," a weekly singing group at the Interfaith Shelter that brings together shelter guests and Life Link clients with Chorale musical artists. He is also the editor of the "Brandon A. Boyd Choral Series," with Hinshaw Music Publications, helping promote exciting and innovative works composed by both established and new composers and arrangers. Dr. Boyd holds degrees from Florida State University (Ph.D., M.M.) and Tennessee State University (B.S.). We are grateful for Dr. Boyd's leadership in worship this morning and for his friend and colleague Bradley Ellingboe (United's Director of Music), who connected him with the United Church of Santa Fe.

Also sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Director of Music Bradley Ellingboe; Festival Choir (with United and *FebFest singers*); Liturgist Blanca Surgeon; Greeters Kimberly Zeilik, Rosemary Thompson, Blanca Surgeon, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Luis Zapata, Sunday Aide; and Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez.

Kids United Celebrate Prayer (10:00)

United's Kids begin the service with the congregation, then go to Children's Ministry to "Learn to Pray for Others" and make prayer bracelets for others, with Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.

Facing the Future with Faith: United's Challenges and Opportunities Ahead Today – 11:15 am

In the Covenant of the United Church of Santa Fe, we promise to give ourselves to the "challenges and opportunities" of our life and ministry together. 2025 has a mixture of both, including the challenge of significantly increased insurance and accountant expenses and the possibility and opportunity of a full-time Director of Family, Children, and Youth Ministries. United also has a long history of building on faith, hope, and love. This forum is a chance to hear about some of those opportunities and challenges as we face the future with faith. All welcome!

**Adult Forum Series: *Reading Bonhoeffer in 2025 America*
Sundays 2/16 & 3/2 (11:15 – Education Wing)**

Next Sunday, Bonhoeffer Scholar Larry Rasmussen continues his series on an essay of German Pastor and Nazi resister Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *After Ten Years*, his account of German fascism and what its resisters learned. Handouts available in the Community Room and at unitedchurchofsantafe.org/additional-forum-material.

This Week at United

Monday

6:00 pm – KSFR 91.1 Radio Forum

Talitha Arnold cohosts a program on “How U.S. Foreign Aid Benefits the U.S.” with former USAID staff members.

Wednesday

10:30 am – Pretty Good Guys

Continue study of John Dominic Crossan’s
“The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord’s Prayer.”

12:00 noon – Stewardship and Finance Meeting

7:00 pm – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Contact Bradley Ellingboe (unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com) for info.

Thursday

8:00 am – Zoom Study of the Gospel of Mark

(sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

5:15 pm – Church Council

AT UNITED, WE SEEK TO “LOVE GOD BY LOVING NEIGHBOR. . .

Support for California Fire Relief, hope for Ukrainian, Gazan and Sudanese refugees, reducing our carbon impact, emergency funds for our Diné/Navajo neighbors, and more! Unitedchurchofsantafe.org has ways to help. Thank you!

United Church Supports Fire Relief

The United Church of Christ, both nationally and through local California congregations, is providing emergency relief to those in need (regardless of faith or background) and to help rebuild communities and lives. We invite your donations (online: unitedchurchofsantafe.org; by check, memo: “California Fire Relief”). Thank you.

Supporting Our Diné/Navajo Brothers and Sisters

Your financial support for covid relief work (food and cleaning supplies) and masks continue to make a difference. Donations are sent to United’s long-time partner, the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, in Fort Defiance, Arizona.

AND TO LOVE GOD BY LOVING CREATION. . .

Care for Creation and Offset Your Carbon Use

United’s “Carbon Offset Program” helps plant trees and advocates for policies to address climate change. Track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours, then donate through United to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and *Tree New Mexico*. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Compost Collection – It’s a Miracle!

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (e.g., food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into life-giving compost. Compostable garbage bags at the church (**NO** plastic bags, please), fill them at home, and bring back to put in the green bin by the Children’s Garden. (Also at church, **please put coffee cups and napkins in compost cans in the Community Room.**)

Sign Me Up! A Family Friendly Musical Event

Sunday, Feb. 16 (3:00 pm) – African American Performing Arts Center, Albuquerque

Bring the whole family to this celebration of gospel music and spirituals presented by Coro Lux, Bradley Ellingboe Artistic Director. Special ticket price for children ages 5-14. Children under 5 get in free. For tickets and information: tickettailor.com/events/corolux.

Can You Help Hang a Banner? Arrange Flowers? Carry a Ladder?

If your answer is “yes,” the Sacred Space Team welcomes—and needs—you! They’re the great group who arrange the Sanctuary. They welcome your help either monthly or seasonally. Let them know you’d like to help! (Donna Clark, 505-490-9840; Chisty Jones, 505-204-6867, Cindy Knox, 620-966-1822)

Composers of Today's Music

(in addition to Brandon Boyd, composer of *Come and Go*, whose bio is in the bulletin)

We've Come This Far by Faith

Albert A. Goodson (1933-2003), grew up in Los Angeles and in the Pentecostal tradition. In an interview, Goodson said his interest in music started as a child. "However," he continued, "my parents were too poor to buy a piano, so I would take a wooden board and pretend to play on it as if it were a keyboard." He received his only formal music education from musicians at Los Angeles' St. Paul Baptist Church from age twelve. Goodson lived down the street from St. Paul and could hear the 200-voice weekly choir rehearsals, led by gospel music legends "Prof." J. Earle Hines and pianist Gwendolyn Cooper-Lightner. He remembered, "I enjoyed listening to the singers at the Baptist church so much they asked me if I wanted to join the choir. I said, 'Yes.' They then asked if I wanted to get baptized. I said, 'Whatever it takes.' And so I got baptized again. I learned everything the pianist would play. I could 'hear' it during the week, and I would play it again and again in my mind."



Walk in the Light

André Thomas, a friend and colleague of both Brandon Boyd and Brad Ellingboe, was our FebFest guest in 2023. Currently an Associate Artist with the London Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Thomas served as Visiting Professor of Conducting at Yale (2020-2022) and is an Emeritus Professor of Music at Florida State University. Dr. Thomas has also distinguished himself as a composer/arranger, and his recent book *Way Over in Beulah Lan': Understanding and Performing the Negro Spiritual* has become a significant resource in this area of study. He is the current President of the American Choral Directors Association.



Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Doris Akers (1923-1995) grew up in Kirksville, Missouri, where she learned to play the piano by ear at age six at the Bethel AME Church and wrote her first song at age ten. In the 1930s she and her siblings formed a singing gospel group with siblings "Dot and the Swingsters." Early in her career (1938) she moved to Los Angeles where she became known for her work with the "Sky Pilot Choir," an integrated group that made recordings and appeared on Radio and TV across the country. Affectionately known as "Miss Gospel Music," Ms. Akers mastered vocalization, keyboards, choir directing, arranging, composing, and publishing and wrote over 500 songs over her life. In 1992 she was honored by the Smithsonian Institution as "The Foremost Gospel Writer in the U.S.," and in 2001 she was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.



Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name

The Spiritual dates to the time of slavery, when African Americans could be beaten or killed for learning to read and write. Thus, the name of the composer is lost to that time. But the Spiritual speaks for the creativity of the unknown composer with its multiple meanings. "Somebody's Calling My Name" could refer to the "inward call" to follow Jesus' way or the "outward call" to escape to freedom. It could also refer to being called at the time of death to God's eternal love and life. The song's multiple meanings attest to the vision and faith of persons deemed inhuman but who knew they were beloved of God and called by God. The hymn's arranger, Jeffrey Radford, is the long-time Director of Music at Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ, an historically Black congregation and the largest UCC church in the country.

God Be with You

Jeremiah Rankin (1828-1904) was an abolitionist, minister of several Congregational (United Church of Christ) churches, including Washington D.C.'s First Congregational Church, where Frederick Douglass and Blanche Bruce (first African American President of the U.S. Senate) were members. He wrote "God Be with You" during his pastorate at First Congregational. In 1890 Rankin was appointed sixth president of Howard University (an Historic Black College founded by the Congregational Church in 1867).

