

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

Welcome to this Service

We are glad you have joined in this time of worship and prayer. This prerecorded service is based on a service for the Eve of the Election in November 2020. It includes music from diverse American sacred traditions, reflective of their time and cultures. Some songs may not be as inclusive in language as if they were written now. We trust you understand. Thank you for joining this service.

CENTERING IN PRAYER

Prelude *Give Me Jesus* African American Spiritual/arr. Moses Hogan

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Musical Call to Worship *Circle of Life* Marty Haugen

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

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The Call to Worship Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,

Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

Though its waters roar and foam,

Though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob and Rachel is our refuge.

Be still and know that I am God.

The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob and Rachel is our refuge.

Hymn *America the Beautiful* Materna/Katherine Lee Bates

*O beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountains majesties, above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good, with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.*

*O beautiful, for patriot dream, that sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul, in self control, thy liberty in law.*

A Prayer of Invocation

Musical Response *Pues se vivimos (In All Our Living)* Mexican Folk Hymn

*Pues si vivimos, para Dios vivimos y si morimos, para Dios morimos.
Sea que vivamos o que muramos, somos del buen Dios, somos del buen Dios.
In all our living, we belong to God; and in our dying, we are still with God;
So, whether living, or whether dying, we belong to God; we belong to God.*

Sharing of Sacred Scripture

Word of Introduction

Moses' Last Sermon

Deuteronomy 30 (cond.)

Reflection

Be Sure to Sing All the Verses

In a Time of Silence

A Musical Response

America the Beautiful

Materna/Katherine Lee Bates

A Prayer for Our Nation

Eternal God, on this special national day, we give you thanks to live in a nation where all people are free to determine their future together.

We remember and hold in honor, God, those who have dedicated their lives to ensuring that all persons, regardless of race, gender, orientation, or social position, have the right to vote their conscious and faith.

Eternal God, on this night before we act together as a people to shape the future of our nation...

We pray together, that tomorrow will bring a day when all people have the chance to vote in peace, and make their voice heard in a spirit of honesty, fairness, and most of all, justice.

Eternal God, as the season of national discussion, discourse, and decision draws to a close...

We place our faith in you, God, that the deep divisions of this season will give way to national healing, cooperation, and a renewed commitment to the principles of equality and justice for all people.

Eternal God, as we have heard the wisdom and courage of your people who have come before us...

We pray that you bestow the same wisdom and courage on all who are called to service tomorrow, that they be given a vision of your justice and compassion for all people.

Eternal God, you who hear the prayers of every human heart, hear now the prayers of this people offered in the silence of our hearts.

(A time of silent prayer)

Eternal God, hear all of our prayers. Remind us again that the earth is yours and the nations your people. As we go through this day, into the night and the day ahead, take away our pride and bring to mind your goodness.

Keep us mindful that we are a people who have received the great gift of freedom, God, and hold each of us responsible for the care and protection of that blessing.

All this we pray in the name of the one who showed us how your light overcomes all shadow, your love overcomes all fear and division, and your life overcomes all our ways of death; the One who taught us to pray to you with boldness, courage, and trust saying:

(please pray any version of the Lord's prayer)

Calling on Those Who have Gone before Us (from a prayer of Elder/Bishop Steven Charleston)

Come near now, saints of every tribe and clan, come closer, drawn by the flame of our prayers, called by the hearts of your family still here on Earth. You know how much we need you. You know how much these coming days mean to us. Come down from all four sacred directions, elders of every nation, come walking on the air, with your shining faces set toward the shadows, casting hope with every glance, reminding us of your presence, showing us the power of what we pray. Come near to us, you host of goodness and mercy, surround us with your love, and hold us up as we walk the blessing way, the path the Spirit has set before us, the tomorrow that waits for us to discover. Lift us up to ride your wings, that we may raise the banner of light, inviting all of your relatives to sing the hymn of hope, to begin a new dance that will not end, to be like you: unafraid and forever believing.

Closing Hymn

America the Beautiful

Materna/Katherine Lee Bates

***O beautiful, for heroes proved, in liberating strife,
Who more than self, their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success, be nobleness, and every gain divine.***

***O beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountains majesties, above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good, with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.***

Benediction

Postlude

My Country 'Tis of Thee (sung by Aretha Franklin)

From 2020:

Leading worship were the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Jacquelyn Helin, D.M.A., Music Director and Pianist; Soloist and Director of Choirs Bradley Ellingboe; Choral Scholars Rebecca Brunette, Yasmeen Lookman, Jonathan Davidson, Gerald Bennet; Liturgists Susan Greig, Larry Rasmussen, Rev. Ben Larzelere, Owen Aalberts, Hela Kelemen, Andy Ritch, Erika Kelemen, Louise Cavatta, and Mary Hasbah Roessel. Producers were Katie Bickley, Elijah Marquez, Jonathan Davidson, and Lin Raymond. Thank you for joining in and please keep our nation and its leaders in your prayers.

Earthquake Relief

CWS is mobilizing a humanitarian response to the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela. Families and communities affected by the earthquakes are in urgent need of lifesaving assistance to meet their daily needs for food, clean water, shelter, and support to begin recovery. You can donate to CWS through United Church of Santa Fe, either with a check made out to United Church (memo: Earthquake Relief) or through United's website: unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

Final Reflections

I have been thinking how good it is that the Spirit is such a democratic force in human culture. If we are committed to a vision of government by the people and for the people, it is liberating to know that the Spirit is on our side. Although throughout history there have been attempts to define the Spirit as being one dimensional, that effort has always broken down as the holy moves freely among all people at all times. Imagination, curiosity, vision, change, freedom: these are all hallmarks of the presence of the Spirit. The sacred is found in the same, but equally in the different.

Bishop Steven Charleston
Episcopal Priest and Choctaw Leader

With malice toward none; with charity toward all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

From the Second Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln
March 4, 1865