A SERVICE OF THANKS-SINGING!

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

November 22, 2026
10:00 A.M.

God is already here.

For Reflection:

Let each of you unite to become a community of singing, so that,
harmonious in love and taking up the song of God in unison,
you may sing with one voice through Jesus Christ to God our Creator,
so that God may hear you and recognize,
from the good works you offer, that you are members of the full body of Christ.

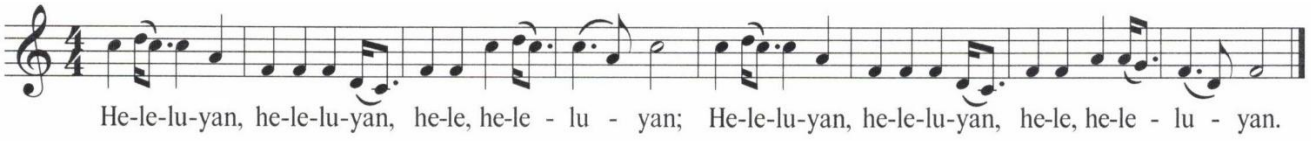
St. Ignatius of Antioch (quoted by Pope Leo XIV)

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

WE GATHER

Gathering Music — *Sonata in B-flat: Allegro* — W.A. Mozart
How Can I Keep from Singing — Robert Lowry

*Congregational Introit — ***Heleluyan*** (2x) — Muscogee Native Tradition
*(*Please rise in body and spirit.)*



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Blessing and Sharing of Our Life and Ministry

A Thank You for ***Building Hope for the Future!*** – Campaign for United 2027

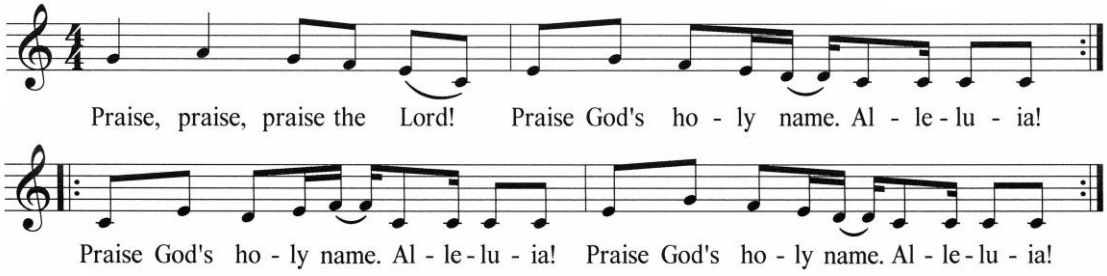
Breathing in God's Blessings

*Sharing God's Blessings — *"Blessings for this blessed day!"*

*Regathering in Song — ***Heleluyan*** (1x) — Muscogee Native Tradition

Welcoming All and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship — ***Praise the Lord*** — Cameroon
(First time solo. Then the Choir. ***Then the whole congregation rises to join in—2 more times!)***



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*The Call to Worship from Psalm 100 **(congregation bold)**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! For the Lord is good.
¡Porque Dios es bueno!
¡Porque Dios es bueno!
Come into God's presence with thanksgiving. Enter God's courts with praise.
¡Porque Dios es bueno!
God's love goes from generation to generation.
¡Porque Dios es bueno!
God has made us and we are God's. Sing praise!
¡Porque Dios es bueno!
Let us sing praise to the God of all generations!
¡Porque Dios es bueno!

*Opening Hymn 422 ***Come, O Thankful People, Come*** St. George's Windsor

WE PREPARE

A Prayer Thanksgiving and Invocation from the Navajo/Diné Tradition
(composed by Deacon Dorothy Natonabah Saucedo)

With corn pollen in hand, I face the east, south, west and north,
prayers in the four directions, for all of us,
the two-legged, the four-legged, the winged, the crawlers and the swimmers,
Mother Earth and Father Sky,
asking for peace, love and harmony,
for protection and safety of our elders, children and grandchildren.

Thankful for a new day,
knowing that by your love and compassion
we face the future embraced by your Grace
to the challenges new and old we will move forward as one people.
Creator, hear our prayers. Aho.

*A Song of Thanks and Praise from Holland ***We Gather Together*** Kremser (Dutch - 1500's)

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.

With voices united our praises we offer, and gladly our song of thanksgiving we raise.
Our lives now confessing, we pray for thy blessing,
To you, our Great Redeemer forever be praise!

WE SING THANKS!

A Word of Introduction

A Song (Psalm) about Singing! Psalm 96

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless God's name;
tell of God's salvation from day to day.
Declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
God is to be revered above all gods. . . .
Say among the nations, "The Lord rules over all!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
God will judge the peoples with equity."
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord; for God is coming,
for the Lord is coming to judge the earth.
God will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with truth.

Sacred Music as Prayer Reflection from Pope Leo XIV

Music, indeed, is part of the liturgical action and is not merely a decorative part of the celebration. In the liturgy, to sing and to play music means to pray, attuning one's heart to that of our sisters and brothers and to God, through active participation in the mystery that is being celebrated. In particular, music expresses the affective dimension of prayer, as Saint Augustine says: *"Cantare amantis est"*, that is, "singing belongs to those who love" (Sermo 336, 1). This is very important, because it helps us to open our hearts to God's action in grace and to allow ourselves to be molded by it.

A Sacred Song of Thanks from Zimbabwe ***Njalo, Njalo*** (3x)

("Njalo" is pronounced "jaolo" and means "always.")

Njalo, njalo, njalo, njalo. Njalo, njalo njalo njalo.
Always we pray, always we give, always we bless, always.
Always we pray, always we give, always we bless, always.

Sacred Music as Communion Reflection from Pope Leo XIV

Singing also fosters communion. It contributes to the unity of hearts, overcoming differences between people and bringing everyone together in praise of God through the symphony of voices. Thus, it becomes an epiphany of the Church, a tangible manifestation of the communion that belongs to her very nature.

A Sacred Song of Praise from Mexico 402 ***De Colores*** Mexican Folk Hymn

(1st English, 1st Spanish, 2nd English)

Sacred Music as an Offering of Hope Reflection from Pope Leo XIV

"Singing belongs to those who love," said St. Augustine. Those who sing give expression to love, but also to the pain, tenderness and desire that dwell in their hearts. . . music is a gift of humanity that conveys what words alone cannot express. In the life of the Church, song becomes the "new song" that the Risen Christ raises to our Creator, in which the congregation participates as "singers of grace" who manifest the joy of new life in Christ.

A Final Reflection from St. Augustine:

Brothers and sisters, let us sing while we walk, . . . sing "Alleluia" now, not in the enjoyment of heavenly rest, but to sweeten our toil. Sing as travelers along the road, like travelers sustained by hope. Sing, but keep on walking. Press on from good to better.

So sing "Alleluia" and keep on walking.

Silent Reflection

A Sacred Song for the Journey ***The Whole Creation Is a Song*** Jeffery Rowthorn/O Waly Waly

(back cover)

Offering Ourselves in a Prayer from the Lakota Tradition

O great and kind Spirit, you have always been and before you nothing has been. There is no one to pray to but you. The star nations all over the heavens are yours, and yours are the grasses of the earth. You are older than all need, older than all pain and prayer.

We join with all creation to give you thanks.

O great and kind Spirit, all over the world, the faces of the living ones are alike. With tenderness they have come out of the earth from which you give us food. Look on your children. With children in their arms, they face the wind and walk the red road to the day of quiet.

We join with all creation to give you thanks.

O great and kind Spirit, fill us with light. Give us strength to understand and eyes to see deeply. Teach us to walk on soft earth as relatives to all that live. Help us! Without you, we are nothing.

We join with all creation to give you thanks.

Make our spirits one with yours, Great Spirit. Help us to know, like the soaring eagle, the heights of knowledge. From the Four Directions, fill us with the four virtues of fortitude, generosity, respect and wisdom, so that we will help our people walk in the path of understanding and peace.

We join with all creation to give you thanks

Finally, great and kind Spirit, help us always to return our thanks to you.

(a time of silent prayer)

All this we offer in the name of Jesus Christ, who walks with us, who inspires our Alleluias, and who taught us to pray to you with boldness, courage, and trust saying, …

(Please use a version of the Lord's Prayer familiar to you.)

Presenting Our Offering

Offertory *The Gift to Be Free* Shaker Hymn/arr. Rollo Dilworth

(Congregation rises in body or spirit to join on last verse.)

Tis' a gift to be simple, tis' a gift to be free.
Tis' a gift to come down where you ought to be.
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
t'will be in the valley of love and delight!

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 425 ***For the Fruit of All Creation*** (1-2) Ar hyd y nos (Welsh Melody)

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction 425 ***For the Fruit of All Creation*** (v. 3) Ar hyd y nos (Welsh Melody)

Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory.

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WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We hope you'll also join in the fellowship time after the service. If you're visiting today, we're glad you're here! If you're visiting United, we invite you to fill out the yellow "visitors card." That helps us be a more welcoming congregation – and we promise not to inundate you with emails ☺. Again, welcome!

In addition to the "Hymn Reflectors," sharing leadership in this morning's service are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Michelle Schumann, Music Director and Pianist; the Adult Choir, directed by Heather Lacy; Louise Cavatta and Steve Hamilton Liturgists; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. You were welcomed by Dona Cook, Marsha Gardner, Blanca Surgeon, Pam Hyde, Beth Cionek and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

THANK YOU FOR "BUILDING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE!"

CAMPAIGN FOR UNITED 2027

Great gratitude for all who've organized United's stewardship work this fall and to all, near and far, who've pledged so generously. So far we've received over 100 pledges (including 16 new pledges) for $467,473. With your help, we'll make the $675,000 goal (and maybe even the Challenge Goal of $699,000). Please pick up a pledge card today and put in the offering plate – or mail your pledge USPS or send it via email. Also please consider the electronic debit/credit program. Email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or call 505-988-3295 for info and forms. Thank you and thanks be to God.

ADVENT BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY!
Wear Purple!

Worship in Advent

Purple candles against the darkness. Music in a minor key. "Come, O Come, Emmanuel" before "O Come, All Ye Faithful." All part of our preparation in these four weeks leading to Christmas. In the church, Advent looks and sounds very different from the world around us. Instead of a red-suited man "making a list and checking it twice," our faith invites to see the real signs of this season—a crazy prophet in the wilderness, a poor woman who sings of freedom and abundance, a throw-away child born in a backwater town. Our faith also calls to trust such visions and to see God at work in our lives and in this world. Advent worship is a good place to start.

Kids, Youth, and Families Get Ready for Advent!

Each Sunday, we'll explore Bible stories with reasons to be hopeful (*Kids United* at 10:00; Youth at 11:15). On the **Joyous Sunday of Advent (Dec. 13),** our youth lead the 10:00 service—***"From Darkness to Light"***—with vignettes of finding hope in shadowed times. *Kids United* sing, too! Plan to join in this powerful worship experience.

Other Special Advent Events for Families and Everyone

Save the Date – All Church Advent Supper and Game Night is coming! – Friday, December 4 (5:30 - 7:30 pm)

Come one, come all! This is an intergenerational evening of lasagna, Shelter Christmas bag assembling, and game playing! RSVP by Dec. 1 to Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com) or to the church office (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

Toiletries for Shelter Christmas Bags – Community Room Boxes for all items

Individual new toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush) for Christmas Bags children and adults will assemble for St. Elizabeth shelter guests (both women and men) during the Advent Community Supper, Friday, Dec. 4 (**No** mouthwash, medications, razors).

Let the Lights Shine! – Help string Christmas Lights, Sat. Dec. 5

If you love the joy of doing Christmas decorations, please join Bob Ansheles (Property/Maintenance chair) on Saturday, December 5, between 9:30 and 11:30 to wrap some of United's trees with strands of lights. There are a variety of tasks, none strenuous (and no climbing, heavy lifting, or power tools!). Sign up in Community Room. Questions? Contact Bob (reansheles@gmail.com). Thank you!

COMING UP IN COMING WEEKS

Wednesday Women's Study Group – Wednesday, Dec. 2 (10:00 to 11:30)

We conclude our discussion of *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. All welcome! Info: Cheryl Morton (mommorton@gmail.com, 515-240-4523) or Jenn Wynne (home@wynnes.us, 817-219-0707).

Pretty Good Guys – *The Men of Christmas* – Wednesday, Dec. 9 – 10:30 am

Joseph, Shepherds, Wise Ones, the Innkeeper, Caesar and Tiberius – the Christmas story is filled with all kinds of men having to make all kinds of decisions. Which character are we this year? Where do we find our place in the story?

Keeping Christmas in the "4th Quarter"
Thursday, Dec. 10 – 10:00 am

The Congregational Care Team had a great response to the Forum "Living into the 4th Quarter," dealing with the changes that come with aging. This month, we're focusing on "Keeping Christmas" as our traditions and understandings change. What do we miss? How do we live into new traditions, communities, family gatherings? Come and share conversation and time with others.

***Las Posadas at United* – Monday, December 21 at 6:00 pm**

We welcome the community of Santa Maria de la Paz for wonderful New Mexico tradition: an early evening of song, prayer, and a visit from a couple of newlyweds. For the night, United becomes the stable of Bethlehem to welcome them (and provide hospitality and refreshments). Sign up to let us know you can help. And plan to come—all ages welcome!

Compassionate Christmas Gifts—Starts Next Sunday, Nov. 29

In the true spirit of Christmas, we invite you to give United's *Compassionate Christmas Gifts* that give hope, care, and joy to people and places in need. The market will be **Sundays Nov. 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20.** Gifts include:

New Mexico Immigrant Law Center: $35
Legal Services and Advocacy for Children, Youth, and Families.

Church World Service: $10
Blankets for Refugees around the world (Ukraine, Sudan, Israel/Palestine).

Changing Lenses, Changing Lives: $50
Provides 21 nutritious lunches for primary school students in Kenya.

United Youth Immersion Trip Scholarship: $40
Toward a youth scholarship for Youth Immersion Trips or Retreats.

Honduran Bilingual Education Community School & Oases Orphanage: $20
Two months of school supplies for a low-income classroom in Honduras.

Santa Fe Shelters for the Homeless: $60
One night at St. Elizabeth, Casa Familia, or Youth Shelters.



Communities in Schools Gift Card for Families in Need: $50
CIS started as United Church/Salazar School Partnership. It's grown and so have the needs of SF students.

***My Water, My Watershed* Santa Fe Student Field trip: $25**
Sponsor a public-school student for an experiential, science-based program to study and explore their watershed, learning about complex relationships between living things and their environment.

Love God by Loving Our Neighbors (and keeping them warm) – Clothing and Blanket Drive

Clean out your closets and bring new and gently used jackets, sweaters, hats, and blankets to United for St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Shelters, Interfaith Community Services, and Nava Elementary School. Kids can help, too—with outgrown jackets, etc. To make a financial donation please memo your check "Clothing/Blankets") or go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Invite neighbors and friends, too. Using the Church as a central clearing house makes donating easy! Also, lend a hand sorting and delivering. Please email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or call 505-988-3295 to say you'll help! Thank you!!

LOVE GOD BY LOVING CREATION

United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change

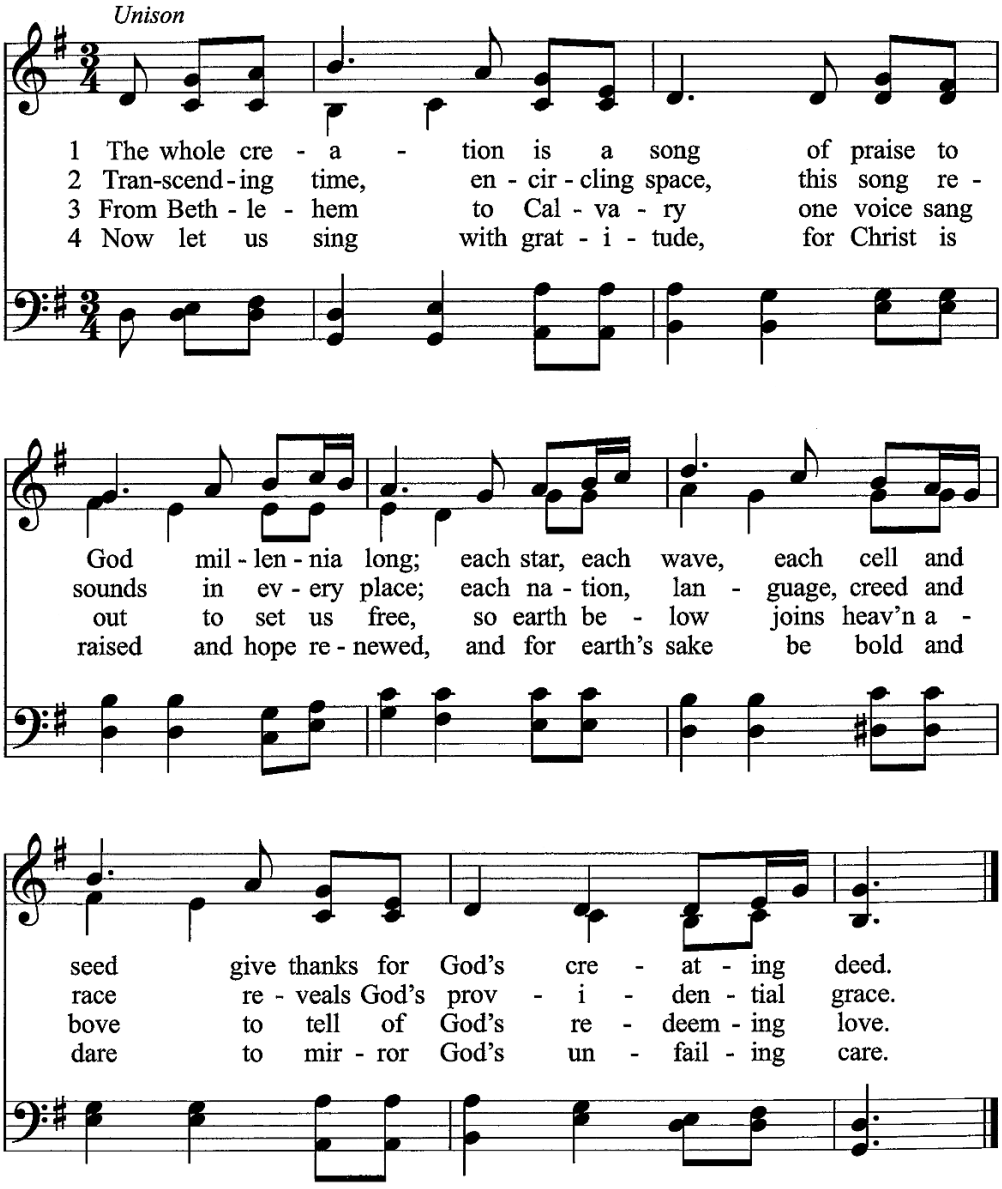
Track car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and the *Santa Fe Watershed Association* for their environmental advocacy and hands-on care for God's good earth and generations yet to come. ($8/100 miles driven; $8/3 hours in the air). Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle! (And it helps mitigate climate change.)

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Two ways to help: 1.) Please use the compost containers in the Community Room and education rooms for your coffee cups, napkins, or plates from Fellowship Time or church meals. They're all compostable. 2.) Get compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and then put in green bin in back of the church.

The Whole Creation Is a Song

Jeffery Rowthorn/ O Waly, Waly



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