

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD  
for  
THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

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

**November 9, 2025  
10:00 A.M.**

*God is already here.*

**For Reflection:**

In 1908, in a wild and remote area of the North Caucasus (western Russia) Leo Tolstoy, the greatest writer of the age, was the guest of a tribal chief “living far away from civilized life in the mountains.” Gathering his family and neighbors, the chief asked Tolstoy to tell stories about the famous men of history. Tolstoy entertained the eager crowd for hours with tales of Alexander, Caesar, Frederick the Great, and Napoleon.

When he was winding to a close, the chief stood and said, “But you have not told us a syllable about the greatest general and greatest ruler of the world. We want to know something about him. He was a hero. He spoke with a voice of thunder; he laughed like the sunrise and his deeds were strong as the rock.... His name was Lincoln and the country in which he lived is called America. Tell us of that man.”

“I looked at them,” Tolstoy recalled, “and saw their faces all aglow, while their eyes were burning [truly] interested in a man whose name and deeds had already become a legend.” He told them everything he knew about Lincoln’s “home life and youth ... his habits, his influence upon the people and his physical strength.” When he finished, they were so grateful for the story that they presented him with “a wonderful Arabian horse.” ...

Tolstoy went on to observe, “This little incident proves how largely the name of Lincoln is worshipped throughout the world ... Now, why was Lincoln so great that he overshadows all other national heroes? He really was not a great general like Napoleon or Washington; he was not such a skillful statesman as Gladstone or Frederick the Great; but his supremacy expresses itself altogether in his peculiar moral power and in the greatness of his character.

“Washington was a typical American. Napoleon was a typical Frenchman, but Lincoln was a humanitarian as broad as the world. He was bigger than his country—bigger than all the Presidents together.”

“We are still too near to his greatness,” Tolstoy concluded, “but after a few centuries more our posterity will find him considerably bigger than we do. His genius is still too strong and too powerful for the common understanding, just as the sun is too hot when its light beams directly on us.”

Doris Kearnes Goodwin, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*

**WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!**

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

Gathering Music

*Song without Words in G Major  
Like a River Glorious*

F. Mendelssohn  
J. Mountain/arr. J. Purifoy

\*Congregational Introit

***We Gather Together***  
*(Please rise in body and spirit.)*

Kremser

***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.***

Blessing and Sharing of our Life and Ministry

“*BE the Energy!*” Campaign for United 2026

Karen Wilbanks

\*Sharing God’s Blessings

*“Blessings for this blessed day!”*

\*Regathering in Song

***We Gather Together*** (1x)

Kremser

Welcoming All and Breathing in God’s Gifts Again

## The Call to Worship from Psalm 145 (congregation bold)

Come, people, praise God and bless God's name forever and ever.

**Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;**

**God's greatness is unsearchable.**

One generation shall extol God's works to another  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

**We will recount the glorious splendor of God's majesty,  
and meditate on God's wondrous works.**

Let us proclaim the might of God's awesome deeds,  
and declare the greatness of the Lord.

**We shall celebrate God's abundant goodness  
and sing aloud of God's righteousness.**

For you, O Holy One are faithful in all your words  
and gracious in all your deeds.

**In you, O God, we put our trust.**

**To you, O God, we sing our praise.**

\*Hymn

12

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Isaac Watts/Ellacombe

## WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation (based on the Prophet Haggai, c. 520 B.C.E.)

Open us to your Word, O Lord, spoken through your prophets in all generations.

**Through the history of our faith, give us hope.**

Open us to the Prophet Isaiah, who proclaimed that your Spirit brings good news to the oppressed and release to the prisoners.

**Open us and give us vision.**

Open us to the Prophet Haggai, who declared, "Fear not—the Lord is with you," even in troubled times.

**Open us and give us courage.**

Open us to your Prophet Mary, who sang that the hungry would be filled and the poor lifted up.

**Open us and strengthen our commitment.**

Open us to your Prophet Jesus, who showed us how to love this world as you so love.

**Open us and deepen our love for you through our love for others and all creation. Amen.**

Silent Prayer and the Assurance of God's Grace

Hymn of Praise

*From All That Dwells Below the Sky*

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Let the Redeemer's name be sung! Let God the Spirit free each tongue!***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*(During the song, children are invited to the Nurture Center with Family Ministry Director Dana Bender and Children's Ministry Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz to explore "loving our neighbor.")*

## WE ENGAGE

God's Word to a Prophet

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-3

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

Lord, how long shall I cry for help,

and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"

and you will not save?

Why do you make me see wrong-doing

and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;

strife and contention arise.

So the law becomes slack,

and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous;

therefore judgment comes forth perverted...

I will stand at my watch post

and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what God will say to me

and what the Lord will answer

concerning my complaint.

Then the Lord answered me and said:

"Write the vision;

make it plain on tablets,

so that a runner may read it.

For there is still a vision for the appointed time;

it speaks of the end and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;

it will surely come; it will not delay.

|                             |     |                                                    |                                |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Hymn                        | 558 | <b><i>O How Glorious, Full of Wonder</i></b> (1-2) | Curtis Beach/In Babilone       |
| The Sermon                  |     |                                                    | <i>There is Still a Vision</i> |
| A Time of Silent Reflection |     |                                                    |                                |
| Musical Response            | 558 | <b><i>O How Glorious, Full of Wonder</i></b> (3-4) | Curtis Beach/In Babilone       |

## WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Lord's Prayer *(Please pray any version.)*

Presenting Our Offering

Offertory

*Building on the Vision*  
(Congregation joins on final verse.)

Jane Foster Knox/Mark Wilson

***O God of the past and the ages before us,  
O God of the future our children may know,  
We ask for your blessing on all our deeds and actions,  
As building on the vision, we venture and grow, as building on the vision, we venture and grow!***

## WE GO OUT IN PEACE

|       |     |                                                      |                                   |
|-------|-----|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| *Hymn | 436 | <b><i>God of Grace and God of Glory</i></b> (1-3, 5) | Harry Emerson Fosdick/Cwm Rhondda |
|-------|-----|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

***Kyrie Eleison***  
*Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

**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!

Sharing leadership in this morning's service are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Dana Bender, Family Ministry Director; Michelle Schumann, Music Director and Pianist; André Garcia-Nuthmann, Choir Director; the United Choir; Karen Wilbanks Liturgist; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator and Audio Volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were welcomed by Rosemary Thompson, Louise Cavatta, Dana Hollifield, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

## TODAY AT UNITED

### ***Kids United Learn About Loving Our Neighbor***

*Kids United* (through 5th grade), with Family Minister Dana Bender and Children's Ministry Aides Maria Navarrete and Destiny Muñoz, explore "loving our neighbor" as they sort food and look at different ways to help our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. They will also rehearse a song for the Thank-Singing service on Nov. 23. All welcome!

### ***What Are You Called To? Ministry Fair – Today at 11:15 am***

Whether it's caring for members and friends or for the building or for the wider community and world, United Church runs on volunteers. It's a great day to find out from our Ministry Teams (Outreach, Congregational Care, Adult Faith Formation, Children/Youth/Families, Immigration/Refugee Task Force, Parish Life) how you can get engaged with these important ministries!

### **Initiates/Confirmands (11:15 am)**

We'll explore "Prayer and Practice," directly following the 10:00 service, in the Youth Room.

### **Kids United Food Drive for Food Depot – TODAY!**

Today *Kids United* invite you to bring non-perishable food items – especially canned fruit ("light" or non-sugar); boxes of individually-wrapped healthy snacks or bars; family-size stews, hearty soups, or beans; ready-made meals. (Pop-top cans are best, no glass.) As the kids learn about "loving our neighbors," particularly those with food insecurity, they'll sort the food and load it up for delivery to the Food Depot. Thanks!

## **BE THE ENERGY!**

### **CAMPAIGN FOR UNITED 2026**

***(And All Church Burrito Brunch Next Sunday, November 16 – Sign up today!)***

The Victory Goal for Campaign for United 2026 is \$625,000, with a Challenge Goal of \$635,000—and yes, it's a challenge, especially in a time such as this, given all the uncertainties about the future and the world in general.

But also – in a time such as ours – the witness and work of the United Church of Santa Fe is more important than ever. As a community that seeks to “love God by loving neighbor and creation,” United makes a difference in the lives of those who come through the doors and those beyond the church walls. We provide a welcoming and safe community for children, youth, and families to learn about God's love and Jesus' ways of life. We seek to support parents and grandparents raising children in this challenging time.

So why such a challenging Stewardship Goal? Because . . .

- For the first time since 2017, we have a fulltime, full-year Director of Family Ministries!
- We want to make sure our building and grounds are fully insured.
- We also want to continue to attract high-quality staff.
- We don't want to use our reserves or additional endowment funds to balance the budget.
- We do want to deepen our commitment to outreach ministries—loving neighbor and loving Creation. That means more staff time and volunteer support.

As you make your **financial pledge** to United for 2026, prayerfully consider what the United Church means to you—and to others. Ask God for guidance in making your pledge—and then join with your United community to be God's hands, heart, and voice through your Stewardship commitment for United 2026.

***BE the Hope, Love, and Energy God calls us to be!***

### **ALSO COMING UP THIS WEEK**

#### **Pretty Good Guys – “Can We Trust the Bible?” – This Wednesday (10:30 to 12:00)**

With an essay by Dr. Harry Attridge, former Dean of Yale Divinity School and renowned scholar of Christian scripture and early history, we'll engage the challenging question of “Can We Trust the Bible?” All men welcome. Copies of the essay available in the Community Room.

#### ***For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional***

**This Wednesday (5:30 - 6:45 pm through Nov. 19)**

Theologian Hanna Reichel offers scripture meditations, reflections, and portraits of people of courage and integrity to guide our Christian response to the present moment. Signup sheet and copies of the book in Community Room.

#### ***Resiliency and Hope: REVELATION Study* – Thursday, Nov. 13 at 8:00 am (via Zoom)**

People tune in from around the country. You're invited, too. Contact [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

#### **The Sanctuary Choir Welcomes You!**

Like to sing? Like to sing with others? Then think about joining the choir. They rehearse Wednesdays, 7:00 to 9:00 pm and sing Sunday mornings in the 10:00 service (with a 9:00 rehearsal before the service). Please contact Choir Director André García-Nuthmann for more info ([unitedchurch.andreg@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.andreg@gmail.com)).

#### **Compost Collection – It's a Miracle!**

Reunity Resources transforms compostable products (food waste, etc.) into life-giving compost. Free compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please). Fill at home, then put in green bin at church's back gate. Thanks!

#### **Offset Your Carbon Use & Care for Creation**

United's “Carbon Offset Program” helps plant trees and change policies to address climate change. It's simple to do: track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to support *Tree New Mexico's* hands-on tree planting and *NM Interfaith Power and Light's* advocacy. Info: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care).

#### **Middle School Friday Fun Night – Bowling!**

**This Friday, Nov. 14 from 6:30-8:00 pm**

Our middle school youth are bowling at The Alley Santa Fe on Friday, November 14 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Friends welcome, too! Interested? Contact Dana Bender ([unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com)).

#### **Santa Fe Community Veterans Day Commemoration**

**This Tuesday (November 11) – 10:00 am – Santa Fe Convention Center**

**Santa Fe Community Band and Members of the Santa Fe Symphony Chorus**

**Rev. Talitha Arnold and Peter Smith Interview Mayor-Elect Michael Garcia**

**Tomorrow (Monday) – 6:00 pm – KSFR 101.1 FM**