

Benedicto

May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome,
dangerous, leading to the most amazing view.
May your rivers flow without end,
meandering through pastoral valleys tinkling with bells,
past temples and castles and poets' towers
into a dark primeval forest
where tigers roar and monkeys howl,
through miasmal and mysterious swamps
and down into a desert of red rock,
blue mesas, domes and pinnacles
and grottos of endless stone,
and down again into a deep vast ancient unknown chasm
where bars of sunlight blaze on profiled cliffs,
where deer walk across white sand beaches,
where storms come and go
as lightning clangs upon the high crags,
where something strange and more beautiful
and more full of wonder
than your deepest dreams waits for you –
beyond that next turning of the canyon walls.

Edward Abbey

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
and
THE RITE OF SEPARATION**

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

**September 18, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

For Reflection as the Youth Initiates start their journey. . .

So...
be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,
You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So...get on your way!"

— Dr. Seuss in *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*

Welcome to the United Church of Santa Fe for this very special service that includes “The Rite of Separation” for our Youth Initiates as they begin their journey to adulthood. During the “Time of Farewell,” the young people come to the front of the Sanctuary with their Parents or Guardians, bid them “farewell,” and then join their Mentors to receive a special blessing and the laying on of hands. The Parents and Guardians return to their seats as they also enter a new phase of their lives. Over the next two years, the youth will explore the challenges and opportunities of adulthood and adult faith, focusing on Self, Sexuality, Society, and Spirituality. At the end of this time, they will be initiated into adult life and, for those who choose, be invited to confirm their faith and join the church.

We invite the Young Adventurers (6th/7th graders), to join the adults and older youth in worship as witnesses to a sacred ceremony that they, too, will be a part of some day. Childcare for infants and toddlers is offered in the Nurture Center. Children’s Ministry for Kinders through 5th graders is offered after the hymn of praise

Please hold the Youth Initiates, their Parents and families, Leaders, and Mentors in your thoughts and prayers this day and over the next two year. On Sunday, May 19, 2024, we join with them again to celebrate “The Rite of Initiation to Adulthood.”

Again, welcome! We are glad you are here.

Gathering Music

*Intermezzo in E major Op. 116, No. 6
Come Christians, Join to Sing*

Johannes Brahms
Madrid/arr. Becki Mayo

*Introit

This Little Light of Mine
(Please rise in body and spirit.)

African American

***This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

Shine it all around the world, . . .

Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

Breathing in God’s Gifts of Peace, Hope, and Love

Sharing God’s Peace and Regathering

This Little Light

African American

Breathing in God’s Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

Be Thou My Vision

Mary Byrne/Slane

Call to Worship (**congregation in bold**)

In the times of doubt and uncertainty on our journey through life...

walk by our side, gracious God, so we may hear your voice.

In the choices and challenges we face along the way...

walk by our side, gracious God, so we may sense your presence.

On our lifelong search for faith, hope, and love...

walk by our side, gracious God, so we may always know you are there.

Children of God, come, let us worship the God who walks with us.

*Hymn

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Now in the Days of Youth (1-3)

Diademata

WE PREPARE

*In a Prayer of Preparation (congregation in bold)

Gracious God, we, your hopeful people, wait now before you.

We would be still.

We would listen for your word speaking in our hearts.

Instruct, inspire, and re-form us.

We pray, by the moving of your Spirit,

that we might worship you with gladness and follow your way with zest.

Reclaim that which we have caused to go awry,

rescue that which we have put out of place,

forgive that which is amiss,

and set us again to our ministries with passionate faith,

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*In a Time of Silent Prayer

*In the Affirmation of God's Grace

*In Our Song of Praise

Praise to the Living God

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.*

(As the adults and youth are being seated, children through 5th grade are invited to Children's Ministry.)

WE BEAR WITNESS

The Rite of Separation

Words of Introduction

The Invitation to the Journey to Adulthood

The Bidding Goodbye to One's Parents and One's Childhood

(The names of the Initiate Confirmands will be called out as they and their Parents are invited forward to say farewell to one another and begin their separate journeys. The Parents and Guardians return to their seats. The Initiates are welcomed by members of the Church Council and led to a new place.)

The Promise of God's Presence

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I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

John Ylvisaker

WE ENGAGE

Stories of Adolescents

Del primer libro de Samuel (From the First Book of Samuel)

I Samuel 3:1-10

Now *el niño Samuel* was ministering to the Lord under Eli. *La palabra del Señor* (The word of the Lord) was rare in those days; *visiones* were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down *en su cuarto* (in his room); the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down *en el templo del Señor*, where the ark of God was. Then *el Señor* called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "*¡Aquí estoy!*" ("Here I am!") and ran to Eli, and said, "*Aquí estoy*, for you called me." But he said, "*No llamé* (I did not call); lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "*Aquí estoy*, for you called me." But he said, "*No llamé, mi hijo*; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "*Aquí estoy*, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if God calls you, you shall say, "*Habla Señor* (Speak, Lord), for your servant *es escuchar* (is listening)." So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "*Habla*, for your servant *es escuchar*."

Del profeta Jeremías (from the Prophet Jeremiah)

Jeremiah 1:4-8

Now *la palabra del Señor* came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you *un profeta* to the nations."

Then I said, "*¡Ah, Señor Dios!* Truly I do not know how to speak, *porque solo soy un niño* (for I am only a boy)." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, '*solo soy un niño*'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. *No tengas miedo* (Do not be afraid), for I am with you to deliver you, *dice el Señor* (says the Lord)."

De la historia de María (from the story of Mary)

Luke 1:26-34

In the sixth month *el ángel Gabriel* was sent by God to *una ciudad en Galilea* (a city in Galilee) called *Nazaret*, to *una mujer joven* (a young woman) engaged to a man whose *nombre era José* (name was Joseph), of the house of David. The young woman's name was Maria. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! *El Señor está contigo*. (The Lord is with you.)" But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "*No tengas miedo, María* (Do not be afraid, Mary), for you have found favor *con Dios* (with God). And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear *un hijo*, and you will name him Jesús. He will be great and will be called *el hijo del Altísimo* (the son of the Most High) . . . and of his kingdom there will be no end." Maria said *al ángel*: "*¿Cómo puede ser esto?*" ("How can this be?")

The Sermon

Aquí estoy ... Soy escuchando ... No tengas miedo ... "¿Cómo?" ... Aquí estoy

A Time of Silent Reflection

Musical Reflection

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte/arr. Ovid Young

WE RESPOND

A Time of Blessing

Questions for the Journey

Of the Parents

Of the Youth Initiates

*Of the Congregation

*A Prayer of Blessing and the Lord's Prayer

Pour out your Spirit, O God, upon these Initiates that they might be awakened to new truth and venture safely into new life. Help them to live not for themselves alone, but for you and for this world that you love. Pour out that same Spirit upon all in this congregation. Give us the wisdom, patience, and courage we need to guide these young people in their journeys. Help the Initiates, their parents, mentors, and leaders to know they are held in your care and in prayers of this community. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and ministry of the church, serving your world, and rejoicing in your presence in our lives.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ, who showed us your ways of love and life and who taught us to pray to you with boldness, courage, and trust, saying... (*Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.*)

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 164

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Festal Song

*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.

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! Please take a moment to sign the guest register, too. Again, welcome!

THE RITE OF SEPARATION...

is the symbolic moment in which our **Initiation Class of 2024** bids "farewell" to their parents and siblings and start their Journey to Adulthood. Please keep the following Initiates, Parents and Families in your prayers today and throughout the two years ahead:

Initiate

Bailey Gordon
Derek Darby
Weston Puglisi
Luke Rand
Sasha Smucker

Parents (siblings)

Angela and Will Gordon (Jackson, Jace)
Amanda and David Darby (Makayla)
Alicia Wolfe and Charles Puglisi (Hazel)
Joohee and Lee Rand (Jaden)
Jessica and Phil Smucker (Jack)

Sharing leadership are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Kate Murphy, Youth Ministry Director; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Jessie Lo, Pianist; the United Choir; Steve Kerchoff and Jessica Smucker, Liturgists; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. Members of the United Church Choir are also participating in the Rite of Separation.

United's Children

Love God, Neighbor, and Creation!

Sunday Mornings during 10:00 Worship

Today United's children (through 5th grade) "love God by loving Neighbor and Creation" by assembling care packages for United's college students, whether they are away at school or here in Santa Fe. They'll also write cards and notes to the new Initiates. Next Sunday, they're making casseroles for the guests of the Interfaith Shelter! All welcome—and bring friends!

Adult Forum: *Eco-Anxiety: What Is It? How to Deal with It?* – Today (11:15 am)

Climate change and the resulting fires, hurricanes and flooding have become leading causes of anxiety for many people, particularly younger adults and youth. Psychiatrists Joe Neidhardt and Mary Hasbah Roessel share information and resources in a preview of a midweek series they'll offer starting October 19.

Three New Youth Groups

(Youth Minister Kate Murphy: unitedchurch.kate@gmail.com)

Young Adventurers (6th/7th) (during 10:00 worship)

Gather Sundays to explore faith and help others and once a month for just plain fun (movie night, hikes, etc.).

Today they stay in worship to witness the Rite of Separation.

Youth Initiates (8th-10th) (11:15 Sundays)

Started their "Journey to Adulthood" with a Ghost Ranch Retreat yesterday and the Rite of Separation today!

JAS – Juniors & Seniors (11th-12th)

A new group for a new year! Gather on Sunday evenings (6:30) and monthly service projects, fun nights, etc., etc., etc.

We Invite Your Offerings

As you leave the service, we invite you to offer your tithes and gifts in the offering plate by the entrance. Your financial support of United makes possible this church's work in the community and the world.

COMING UP THIS WEEK. . . .

MON	6:30 pm	Talitha Arnold on KSFR <i>Forum</i>
WED	10:00 am	Women's Study Group
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
THURS	8:00 am	<i>Resiliency & Hope: Strengthening Our Souls</i> Bible Study (Zoom)
	9:00 am	Newsletter Folding
FRI	10:00 am	"Chop and Grate" for Interfaith Shelter
SUN		<i>Worship for the Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost</i>
	8:30 am	Outdoor Communion for All Ages
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship with Sanctuary Choir; Children's Ministry; Young Adventurers
	11:15 am	Adult Forum and Youth Initiates

Talitha Arnold on KSFR's "Santa Fe Forum" – Tomorrow at 6:30 pm

Talitha is a regular panelist on KSFR's "Santa Fe Forum," airing Mondays (6:30-7:00 pm) on 101.1 FM in a discussion of current events. Tune in tomorrow!

Women's Study Group – This Wednesday (10:00 am)

All women invited to join in lively discussions of Choctaw Elder and Episcopal Bishop Steven Charleston's "The Four Vision Quests of Jesus," led by Talitha Arnold. Barbara MacPhee organizes the group (macphee.b@gmail.com, 504-232-6670).

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

Exercise your mind and your soul every Thursday morning by exploring the scripture stories for the upcoming Sunday. Join in to deepen your faith and share the journey. All welcome! Sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Adult Forum: *What Do Families Need?* – Next Sunday (11:15 am)

The pandemic has taken a tremendous toll on families. As we emerge into its aftermath, what do parents need to help their children find hope and resilience? What do they need in their own lives from the church? If you're a parent, come and share your thoughts. If you're past parenting, come to listen.

IN THE WINGS. . .

St. Francis and Pet Blessing Sunday, Sunday, Oct. 2

All-Age Outdoor Worship—8:30 and 10:00 am

On St. Francis Sunday (October 2), both the 8:30 and 10:00 services will conclude with our annual Blessing of the Animals. Bring your pet (leashed, crated, or otherwise constrained :-), a picture of your pet or your favorite stuffed animal for a special blessing.

"Living with the Land: A Desert Faith for a Desert Time"

Sunday, Oct. 2 – 11:15 am

Also on Sunday, October 2, we host a special panel of United members along with writer and Christian Century editor Amy Frykholm, author of *Wild Woman: A Footnote, the Desert, and My Quest for An Elusive Saint*, that follows in the ancient footsteps of St. Mary of Egypt through Egypt, Palestine, and Jordan. We'll focus on what it means to live with the high desert of northern New Mexico and what lessons the desert offers us. All welcome!

LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, CREATION

Outreach Opportunities – Thank you!

Go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org or send a check to 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe NM 87505.

"Chop and Grate" Morning for Interfaith Shelter

Next Friday, Sept. 23—10:00 am

Come to a "Chop and Grate" Morning next Friday (Sept. 23—10:00 am) at United to veggies and cheese for United's children to mix into casseroles during Children's Ministry next Sunday (Sept. 25). You'll meet new friends while helping provide nutritious food for the guests of the Interfaith Shelter. If you have graters, knives, or cutting boards, please bring those, too. It helps if you can let us know in advance that you're coming (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com). Thanks!

KITS FOR UKRAINE

Since February, United has raised over \$20,000 and assembled 450 Church World Service hygiene kits for Ukrainian refugees. As the war continues, the need continues. You can help with monetary donations to help CWS buy supplies (food, diapers, etc.). Also, please spread the word to friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family. Thank you!

LOVE CREATION

Care for Creation and Offset Your Carbon Use

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 *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and *Tree New Mexico*. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/post/unitedscarbonoffsetprogram.

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle!

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (e.g., food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Pick up compostable garbage bags at the church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill them at home, and bring back to put in the green bin by the Children's Garden. More things in the compost bin means less in the landfill. Info at reunityresources.com or call Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700). Thanks!

Please go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org for more ways to "Love God, Neighbor, & Creation." Thank you!