A Service of the Word
for
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 24, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.
The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

For Reflection:
“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”
Rachel Carson, Marine Biologist, Author, Conservationist

WE GATHER
(As you enter the Sanctuary, please turn off your cell phone and enter into a time of silence so that you and others can let the music lead us into communion with God’s beauty and power.)

Gathering Music
*Introit

Circle of Life (2x)
(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Marty Haugen

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Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

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

Musical Call to Worship

Circle of Life (1x)

Marty Haugen

The Call to Worship from Psalm 8 (congregation in bold)

O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Your glory is chanted by the mouths of babes and infants.
We look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have made.
Who are we that you should think of us, our children that you should care for them?
Yet you have made us little less than you. You crown us with glory and honor.

O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

*Hymn

I Sing the Mighty Power of God (vs. 1-2)

Ellacombe

(As adults and older youth are being seated, children and younger youth are invited to Children’s Ministry.)

WE PREPARE

*Prayer of Invocation from the Ute Sacred Tradition

Earth teach us stillness, As the grasses are stilled with light.
Earth teach us suffering, As old stones suffer with memory.
Earth teach us humility, As blossoms are humble with beginning.
Earth teach us caring, As the mother secures her young.
Earth teach us courage, As the tree which stands all alone.
Earth teach us limitation, As the ant which crawls on the ground.
Earth teach us freedom, As the eagle which soars in the sky.
Earth teach us resignation, As the leaves which die in the fall.
Earth teach us regeneration, As the seed which rises in the spring.
Earth teach us to forget ourselves, As melted snow forgets its life.
Earth teach us to remember kindness, As dry fields weep with rain. Amen.
**A Time of Silent Prayer**

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Oh earth there’s not a plant of flower but makes your glory known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.

**Ellacombe**

**Our Song of Praise**

**WE ENGAGE**

*Ethics, Wonder, Common Sense: What Does the Bible Say about Science?*

From the Holiness Code of the Torah

El Senor (The LORD) spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them: Speak to el pueblo de Israel (the people of Israel), saying: From among all the land animals, these are the creatures que puede comer (that you may eat). Any animal that has divided hoofs and is cloven-footed and chews the cud—such you may eat. . . . El cerdo (The pig), for even though it has divided hoofs and is cloven-footed, it does not chew the cud; es impuro (it is unclean for you). Of their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch; son impuros for you. . . . If an animal of which you may eat dies, anyone who touches its carcass shall be impuro until the evening. Those who eat of its carcass lavarán su ropa (shall wash their clothes) and be impuro until the evening; and those who carry the carcass lavarán su ropa and be impuro until the evening.

(Additional Readings: Leviticus 25:1-5 and Leviticus 12:1-5)

From the Prehistory of the Hebrews (The Tower of Babel)

Genesis 11:1-9

From the Letters of Paul the Apostle

I Corinthians 13:1-3

From the Psalms

Psalm 104 (selections)

**Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom**

Holy Manna

1 Earth is full of wit and wisdom, sounding God's delighted laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wisdom, woven into harmony.
3 Earth is full of wit and wisdom: penguin, platypus and snail,

from the tiny royally to the tree-tall giraffe.
Every creature has a purpose, every flower and bumblebee.
cactus, sea slug, oak and algae, from the microbe to the whale.

All creation sings in wonder; even rocks and trees rejoice
Spider, human, redwood, gecko, monkey, chicken, mouse and snake,
In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth:

as they join the ringing chorus: echoes of our Maker's voice.
live with a single fabric: cloth that only God could make.
born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth.
WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer (based on a prayer by Bishop Jeffery Rowthorn and Anne Rowthorn)

Praise to you, holy God of the Universe.
You were there at the dawning of creation and you hold all things together.
You roll out the ever-expanding celestial tapestry of bright stars, bursting supernovas, spinning planets and galaxies beyond galaxies, yet you are near to us as the air we breathe.
You hover close to the newborn and you will soothe our dying breath.

We open our hearts and our minds to you, to the earth and sky, to oceans and all that lives in them. All to you, holy God, author of all, who is in all and loves all.

(silence)

Hear our prayers of thanks for creating us as one vast human family,
sleeping beneath one roof, the starry sky, warming ourselves before one hearth, the sun,
standing upon one soil, breathing one air, drinking one water,
and walking the night beneath one luminescent moon.

(silence)

Hear our prayers of thanks for the gifts of science and exploration, creative vision and inventiveness,
for microscopes to see the smallest living thing and telescopes to probe the depths of space,
for medicines and healing herbs,
for new understandings of the working of our bodies and brains,
for the opportunity to search and re-search the questions that life in all its vastness and mystery presents.

(silence)

Help us to use your gifts of research and discovery wisely, our minds and hearts faithfully,
for the benefit of humankind, that all may rejoice in your goodness.

(silence)

May our wonder at the world in which we live and the universe that surrounds lead us to love your creation, cosmic and earthen, and all that dwells therein, as you so love.

We ask all this in the name of the One who showed us that love—and who taught us to pray together with boldness, courage, and most of all, trust, saying . . . (Please pray any version of the Lord’s prayer.)

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

Blessing of New College Student (and his dads)  
José Lain-Straus

*Closing Hymn  556  God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens  Holy Manna

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction  Kyrie Eleison  (3x)  Ukrainian Chant

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WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!
We’re glad you’ve joined us for worship this morning and invite you to join in other ministries and programs of the church. Please go to our website (unitedchurchofsantafe.org) for more information. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Andy Kingston and Madelyn Kingston, Guest Musicians; Jessie Lo, Pianist; José Lain Straus, Kim Straus, Jack Lain, Readers; Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. The flowers on the Communion Table are given to the glory of God and in memory of Christopher Law, whose memorial service was Friday.

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.

Children’s Ministry Sunday Mornings
United’s children and youth tend the Children’s Garde during Sunday worship and learn about God and God’s earth, water, air, and creatures. All welcome! (Adult volunteers welcome, too! Please let Talitha Arnold or Kate Murphy know.)

The United Church office will be closed this week, as Office Administrator Lin Ray mond is away on a much-deserved break, and Rev. Talitha Arnold is in Washington, D.C. for a National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention meeting, returning late Tuesday If a pastoral need arises, please call the Caregiver-On-Call Dave Wilkison (505-400-0504).

“Lightning Boy Hoop Dancers” at United – Friday, July 29 (7:00 pm) – For All Ages!
The event features tribal youth from northern New Mexico. The Hoop Dance continues to be known as a healing art form and is said to have its origins in the Pueblos of Northern New Mexico. Bring a lawn chair, a friend, and enjoy this unique New Mexico offering! You can also pack a picnic supper and come early. It will help if you sign up, too :). (unitedchurchofsantafe.org)

Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday, July 27 (10:30 am)
All men invited to join in this twice-monthly meeting. We gather outside for discussion and fellowship. (Greg Gaertner: greg.gaertner@comcast.net, 505-428-8910)

Resiliency and Hope: What Does the Bible Really Say about . . . All Kinds of Things?
Thursdays at 8:00 am – Zoom (please register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)
Explore the scriptures for the upcoming Sundays and help inform the sermon 😊. All welcome!

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

THURSDAY NIGHTS LIVE! 2022 (Thursdays 5:30 to 7:00 pm)
United’s weekly outdoor evening program includes a simple supper and a lot of fun – August 4 – Outdoor Games
Come each week or just when you’re in town. Grandchildren and friends always welcome!

Middle and High School Youth
Thursday, August 11 at United (7:15 to 8:30)
Encourage your kids to join with other United Youth—and friends—for summer fun! Let Kate know you’re coming!

Summer Drive for the Food Depot of Northern New Mexico
The Food Depot supplies schools, shelters, and agencies with healthy food year-round. To help, bring to the church: jumbo containers of vegetables & fruit; pasta & rice or family-size packages of high-protein foods (dried beans, canned meats, chili con carne or soup); baby foods (powdered formula, dry cereal, jars of baby food); and diapers. Monetary donations also welcome. Make checks to United Church (memo: Food Depot) or go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you!

Push the Re-Set Button – Small Group Gatherings
In the pandemic’s third year, the challenge for churches isn’t to pivot but to re-set—our understandings of our ministries and the call to be God’s church. What are the values and faith we hold fast? Join with other United members and friends in small group conversations. Sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. If you are flexible in your dates, let us know that, too. Thanks!

| Sunday, July 31 (11:15 to 12:45) | Thursday, August 11 (5:15 to 6:30) |
| Wednesday, August 3 (4:00 to 5:30) | Sunday, August 14 (11:15 to 12:45) |
| Sunday, August 7 (11:15 to 12:45) | Tuesday, August 16 (12:00 to 1:30) |
| Wednesday, August 10 (5:15 to 6:30) | Tuesday, August 23 (7:00 to 8:30) |

At United, we seek to “LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, CREATION” in a whole lot of ways. From supporting our Diné/Navajo sisters and brothers to providing relief resettlement for Afghan, Central American, and Ukrainian refugees to feeding hungry people in Santa Fe and helping persons recovering from New Mexico’s devastating fires to composting waste into life-giving compost, United seeks to love our neighbors and God’s creation in all kinds of ways. Go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to find out more!