

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
**for the**  
**Joyous Sunday of Lent**  
**March 15, 2026**  
**10:00 A.M.**

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

**For Reflection**

*Faith makes wilderness survivable and ultimately transformative. Faith is not passive; it is an active stance in which we participate. We act in faith that the signals will be there for us; that there is a magnetic field that our compass can attune to. We listen, and see, and perceive with heightened attention and senses for the Holy Spirit, Inner Light, the Still Small Voice. This open attentive mindset is a form of prayer.*

Rebecca Stoltzfus, President, Goshen (Mennonite) College

**WE GATHER**

Gathering Music

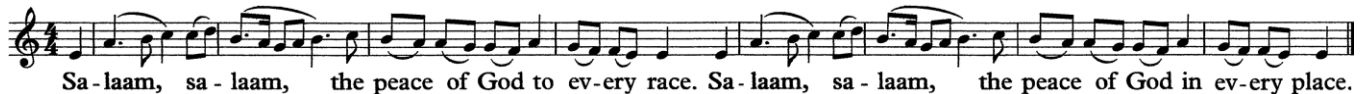
*Aria from D Major Partita*  
*In Christ Alone*

J.S. Bach  
Getty/Keveren

\*Introit

***Salaam/Peace*** (2x)  
*(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Manal Samir



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Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing God's Gifts and Regathering in Song

***Salaam/Peace*** (2x)

Manal Samir

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Call to Lent from the Psalms

Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were the shadows, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to God. Take no part in the unfruitful works of the shadows; rather, expose them . . . everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,  
"Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Choral Call to Worship

*Be Now My Vision*

Slane/Irish Melody

The Call to Worship

Come and worship, you who know your need of God, for you are the light of the world!  
*¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!*

**¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!**

Come and worship, all the meek, the gentle, the quiet and the kind,

**¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!**

Come and worship, you who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

**¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!**

Come and worship, you who are merciful,

**¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!**

Come and worship, all the peacemakers,

**¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!**

Come and worship, you who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

**¡Tú eres la luz del mundo!**

All people, God calls us to be the light of the world. Come, claim that call. Let us worship together.

## WE PREPARE

### A Prayer of Invocation and Confession

O God, if we thought even a little about our failures in love and courage in the time since last we gathered, there'd be no strength for praise. Each of us brings some specific tearing of the fabric of your grace, some erosion of the time given for making peace and sharing hope. But what binds us most is our staring only at the dark, the self-pride which assumes that until we are perfect you will not come among us and that no good thing can happen. From this rejection of your grace, deliver us.

**O God, our specific offenses are well known to you. Grant us the strength to do whatever mending can be done, and the strength not to repeat what brings grief to you, ourselves, and others. We confess as well the lack of trust that sees too much of our failures and the world's trouble, and too little of your healing grace. We ask your forgiveness.**

### A Time of Silent Prayer

#### The Assurance of God's Grace

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up unto the Lord!**

By the grace of God we are forgiven. Receive God's mercy and peace. Burden God no more with gloom and sadness, but praise God with hymn and psalm and live compassionately with one another.

#### \*Song of Praise

#### *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Pierpont/Dix

*For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed.  
God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

## WE WELCOME

### The Receiving of New Members

Words of Welcome from the United Church of Christ *Book of Worship*

**By your baptism, you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith, which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.**

#### Four Questions of the Candidates

- Affirmation of Baptismal Vows
- Promise to choose God's way of life over the world's ways of death
- Commitment to personal discipleship and growth in faith
- Commitment to the covenantal community

#### Questions of the Congregation

You have heard the affirmation of these people. Will you now welcome them into the common life of this church? Will you promise them your friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and ministry of this community of faith?

**We promise with the help of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in that knowledge and love of God and be witness of Jesus' ways of hope and justice in our world.**

#### Sharing the Covenant of the United Church of Santa Fe

**In the Lord's name we gather together here in Santa Fe  
to worship and grow in the Christian tradition, to minister in love to all persons,  
to strive for justice and peace, to respond to God's word.**

**We celebrate the heritage of Santa Fe and give  
ourselves to its challenges and opportunities.**

**We endeavor to live in harmony with all creation as stewards of the earth.**

**We share in the life and mission of the United Church of Christ  
and of Christians everywhere.**

**To these purposes we unite and covenant with God  
and one another, watchful for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

## A Prayer of Blessing and Laying On of Hands

Signing and Singing the Covenant 459 *Come, O Fount*

R. Robinson/Nettleton

*(As adults and older youth are seated, our younger ones through 5<sup>th</sup> grade go to Kids United with volunteer Tracy Church and Children's Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.)*

### WE ENGAGE

A Story of New Sight from the Gospel of John (**congregation bold**)

John 9:1-15

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of the One who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the person who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him."

He kept saying, "**I am the one.**" But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "**The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight.**" They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "**I do not know.**"

They brought to the religious leaders the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the leaders also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "**He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.**"

Some of the leaders said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?"

The religious leaders did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the religious leaders, for they had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "**I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.**"

Sermon  
Silence

*Called to New Vision*

Musical Response

*What Wondrous Love is This*

Southern Harmony/Lantz

### WE RECEIVE AND RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer (*We close with the Lord's Prayer—please pray any version.*)

Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory  
Prayer of Dedication

*Amazing Grace*

John Newton

### WE GO IN PEACE

\*Hymn 571

*O God of Love, O God of Peace*

Henry W. Baker/Hesperus

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

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

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

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

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning and invite you to join in the programs of education, music, and service during Lent. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing worship leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Pianist/Director of Music; Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; Dawn Williams, Liturgist; Sarah Sawtell, Moderator-Emerita; Sheree Whitney, Scripture Reader, Elijah Marquez, Media Director, with Audio Volunteer Joe Jones. You were greeted by Ministers of Hospitality Diane Darby, Don Duncan, Pam Hyde, Tom Stewart, Rosemary Thompson; Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

We welcome several new members today! Emerson Grey joined in the 8:30 service and in this service, we welcome Tracy and Frank Church and Denny Cicak.

### **Ministry with Children**

Children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade begin the service with the congregation, then go to *Kids United* to learn about and explore the healing of a blind person, with Volunteer Tracy Church, and Ministry Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.

### **Connecting Kids with Creation – Today's Forum (11:15 in Learning Center, then outside)**

Thanks to a major gift from two former United members (now living in Colorado), the church contracted with Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds to develop the area in the back of the church for an outdoor learning, play, and worship space to connect children and youth with God's creation. This Sunday's Forum provides a sneak preview of what's in the works. All welcome!

### **Easter Flower Remembrances**

If you'd like to honor or remember someone with the donation of a lily displayed at United Church this Easter, please fill out the form in the Community Room and leave it with your donation in the envelope or the offering plate by **next Sunday, March 22**. Suggested donation is \$20 per lily. The names will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletins.

### **Midweek Communion in Lent – Wednesdays (12:15 pm to 12:45 pm)**

Do you yearn for silence or an opportunity to breathe, pray, replenish? Wednesday during Lent, United offers a **Lenten Noontime Communion (12:15-12:45)**. All welcome to recharge and renew (through Holy Week: April 1).

### **Where's My Passport? (Don't Leave Home without It)—Next Sunday's Forum**

For many in the United community, we only need our passport if we travel out of the country. But others always carry their passports—not because they aren't citizens, but because a) their skin is a particular color or b) because their last name isn't in English or c) because they are naturalized citizens. The impact of the current government's actions and policies, especially toward persons of color, impacts our friends and neighbors in our own congregation. We hear some of their stories today.

### **Other Study Opportunities**

#### **Women's Study – “Healer of the Water Monster” — Wednesday (10:30 am)**

By Navajo/Dine author Brian Young, this coming-of-age book draws on Indigenous wisdom. All welcome!

#### **The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong — Wednesdays (5:30-6:45 pm)**

Karen Gonzales' *The God Who Sees* combines her story of immigrating from Guatemala to the U.S. as a child with stories of Biblical immigrants and refugees (Ruth and Naomi, Jesus, etc.). All welcome. Copies of book in Community Room.

#### **Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of John**

**Thursdays 8:00 am (MT) on Zoom**

We're exploring the challenging and confusing Gospel of John. All welcome! Register/Info: [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

### **At United, we seek to “Love God, Neighbor, Creation” in a whole lot of ways. . . .**

Support for Ukrainian, Central American, and Sudanese refugees, reducing our carbon impact, emergency funds for our Diné/Navajo neighbors, and more! Go to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org) to find out how you can help. Thank you!

## **LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, CREATION**

### **Our Love Offering to the World -- One Great Hour of Sharing**

United invites your support of *One Great Hour of Sharing*, the United Church of Christ offering to support refugee resettlement, disaster relief, food and small farm programs globally and in the U.S. Gifts can also be designated for particular emergencies (e.g., refugee relief, food, etc.). To donate online, go to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org), memo: OGHS or bring your offering to church. Thank you!

Donate food, children's toys and books for Santa Fe's public schools kids with the Community Room bins.

### **Build a Bridge, Not a Wall Cards for Sale to Benefit United's Support for Immigrants and Refugees**

United offers cards of the beautiful “Mary of the Bridge” bulto created by Northern New Mexico artists Doreen Martinez and the late Ronald Martinez. 10 cards—\$15; 5 cards—\$8. Check them out at the Community Room table.

### **No Kings March – Saturday, March 28**

Find your green United T-shirt and join with other members and friends for this important witness. Sign up in the Community Room today to let us know you're coming!