

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
**for the**  
**First Sunday of Lent**  
**February 22, 2026**  
**10:00 A.M.**

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

**For Reflection:**

Wilderness is the area that lies beyond the boundaries of our map. Our rules and habits are insufficient. We have never been here before. The gift of wilderness is that it compels us to draw upon new faculties, to be urgently attentive to new signals and clues. It invites us to shed the map, no longer useful. We must find our compass and find our way with a qualitatively different kind of sense-making and path-finding.

Dr. Rebecca Stoltzfus, President of Goshen (Mennonite) College

**WE GATHER**

Gathering Music

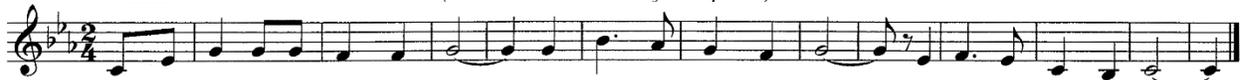
*Prelude in E-Flat Minor*  
*I Must Tell Jesus*

J.S. Bach  
Orwigsburg/arr. Heather Sorenson

\*Introit

***Donde hay caridad*** (2x)  
*(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Joaquín Madurga



Don-de hay ca-ri-dad ya-mor, a-llí es-tá el Se-ñor, a-llí es-tá el Se-ñor.

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Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing Those Gifts and Regathering in Song

***Donde hay caridad*** (1x)

Joaquín Madurga

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Call to Lent from the Psalms

Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in thee I trust; make me to know thy ways. O Lord, teach me thy paths.  
Lead me in thy truth, and teach me,  
for thou art the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.  
Be mindful of thy mercy, O Lord, and of thy steadfast love, for they have been from of old.  
According to your steadfast love remember me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord!  
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.

Choral Call to Worship

*Again We Keep This Solemn Fast*

Erhalt Uns, Herr

The Call to Worship

Praise God, who gives life even in the desert. *Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida.*

**Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida.**

Praise God, who calls us by name, and calls us "Beloved."

**Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida.**

Praise God, who sends us angels in the wilderness and gives us bread for our journey.

**Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida.**

Praise God, whose realm is near and who proclaims good news to all.

**Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida.**

People of God, come. Trust in God and take Lent's journey to new life.



1. We join, O Christ, Your jour - ney These sol - emn for - ty days.  
 2. Your self - de - ni - al shames us When safe - ty is our goal,  
 3. You came, O Christ, a - mong us With might and right to reign;  
 4. This Lent, O Lord, em - pow'r us To grow in faith - ful - ness.



As with Your twelve dis - ci - ples You walk im - per - iled ways.  
 When, keen to claim ad - van - tage, We win but lose our soul.  
 Yet, though a king - dom beck - oned, You chose the path of pain.  
 Let self - con - cern di - min - ish; Let self - less love in - crease.



Like theirs, our steps are halt - ing, Our faith - ful - ness un - sure.  
 We watch You reach to oth - ers With o - pen, giv - ing hands  
 A robe, a crown, a scep - ter You count - ed these but loss  
 Christ, keep Your cross be - fore us Till ours we dai - ly bear



Lord, when we fal - ter, help us To fol - low and en - dure.  
 And see a - gain our fail - ure To an - swer love's de - mands.  
 And gained at last Your king - dom En - throned up - on a cross.  
 And walk with You to Cal - v'ry The pain of God to share.

### WE PREPARE

#### \*A Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Lord God, you call your servants to your ways of life through this journey of Lent.

**We do not always see the way ahead.**

**We often walk on paths untrodden.**

**Give us the faith to go with good courage,**

**not knowing where we go,**

**but only that your hand is leading us**

**and your love supporting us.**

**Help us to trust your path**

**and the promise of Easter's new life to which it leads. Amen.**

#### \*A Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of Grace

#### \*Our Song of Praise

#### *We Join, O Christ Your Journey* (st. 4)

St. Theodulph

*(During the hymn, children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Kids United.)*

### WE ENGAGE

#### Jesus and the Tempter (cong. bold)

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesús was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But Jesús answered, "**It is written,**

**'One does not live by bread alone,**

**but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'**"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and

'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, "**Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'**"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesús said to him, "**Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God.'**"

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Musical Reflection	205	<i>Forty Days and Forty Nights</i>	George Hunt Smyttan/Heinlein
Sermon			<i>The Real Hungers</i>
Silent Reflection			
A Musical Response	410	<i>If You But Trust in God to Guide You</i> (1-2)	Georg Neumark trans. Catherine Winkworth

### WE RESPOND

Offering our Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (*please pray any version*)

Offering the Gifts God has Given Us

Offertory *Behold, How Good* Michael Trotta

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Bless our tithes and offerings, O God, returned to you. Multiply and use these, and all your gifts, to bring the light of Christ's love through our love for our kindred and for all creation. Amen.**

### WE GO OUT IN PEACE

A Time of Thanks, Godspeed, and Laying on of Hands Rebecca Brunette

\*Hymn 451 *Be Now My Vision* (1-2, 4) 8<sup>th</sup> c. Irish Text and Melody  
trans. Mary E. Byrne

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction *Kyrie Eleison* Ukrainian Orthodox Church (c. 900)  
*Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

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### **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!

Children through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade begin the service with the congregation, then go to *Kids United* with Family Minister Dana Bender, volunteer Tracy Church, and Children's Ministry Assistants Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.

Sharing worship leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Althea Pak, Liturgist; Michelle Schumann, Pianist/Director of Music; Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; soloist Rebecca Brunette; and Elijah Marquez, Social Media Director. You were greeted by Ministers of Hospitality Diane Darby, Rosemary Thompson, Dana Hollifield, and Pam Hyde; and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

We bid Godspeed and all God's blessings to Choral Scholar Rebecca Brunette who is stepping down after serving since the Choral Scholar program began in the fall of 2017. A Bachelors of Arts graduate of the University of New Mexico, Rebecca (aka Becky) also received her Masters of Music this past December from UNM. She is a frequent soloist with *Coro Lux*, New Mexico Philharmonic, and multiple other settings, including opera. She will be missed and we wish her all the best.

### ***Congregational Mid-Winter Budget Meeting – Today (11:15 am)***

Learn how United funds all of our ministries from children and youth to worship and music to outreach and maintaining the building and grounds. We'll also discuss (and hopefully approve :-)) the proposed 2026 United Ministries Budget (copies available in the Community Room). Thank you in advance for your participation!

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

Do you yearn for silence or an opportunity to breathe, pray, replenish? Starting this Wednesday, February 25, United offers a **Lenten Noontime Communion (12:15- 12:45)**. All welcome to recharge and renew (through Holy Week: April 1).

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S FORUMS**

#### ***“Love in Action” Children’s Summer Arts Camp***

Family Minister Dana Bender and others share the plans for a summer “Love in Action” Arts Camp (June 15-19).

#### ***Prayers for Healing***

After the 10:00 service, there will be an opportunity in the Sanctuary for persons to have individual prayers and anointing for healing, be it for themselves or others.

### **Other Study Opportunities**

#### ***For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional*** **Wednesdays in Lent – 5:30 - 6:45 pm (Feb. 25 through March 25)**

Last fall, we began this powerful little gem of a book, filled with scripture meditations, reflections, and portraits of people of courage and integrity. This Lent, we return to its wisdom and call to faith, hope, and action. It can help guide our Christian response to this evermore challenging time. All welcome, even if you didn't participate last fall. Signup sheet and copies of the book in Community Room.

#### ***What Are Biblical Values?***

#### **Pretty Good Guys – This Wednesday (10:30 am)**

Through spring, the Pretty Good Guys invites all men to join in a study of “What Are Biblical Values?” by Yale professor John Collins. Books available for purchase in the Community Room. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

#### ***Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of John – Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MT) on Zoom***

This Zoom study started during the pandemic. Five years later, we still need the “Resiliency and Hope” of our Biblical faith. In Lent, we're exploring the challenging and sometimes confusing Gospel of John. All welcome! Register/Info: [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

#### ***Outgrow – 2026 Lenten Daily Devotional Booklets in Community Room***

Take a copy of the Lenten Daily Devotional Booklet, published by the United Church of Christ, featuring national UCC leaders (including Talitha Arnold). Join with others in Lent's journey to Easter's new life.

#### **The Meaning of Membership – Sunday Forum, March 8**

Interested in learning more about the United Church of Santa Fe? Questions about what it means to be a member? Come to the Sunday Forum in two weeks (March 8) with questions and wonderings. Participating in the Forum doesn't mean a commitment to join—it's simply a time to learn more and meet new people. It helps if you let us know you're coming by signing up in the Community Room or emailing us ([unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)). Thanks!

#### **New Members Welcomed**

#### **Joyous Sunday of Lent – March 15**

We'll receive new members into the United Church community on the Joyous Sunday of Lent (March 15). If you're interested in joining, please speak with Talitha Arnold (505-988-3295). Thanks! (If the date doesn't work for you, please let her know that, too. Thanks.)

#### ***Can You Help Hang a Banner? Arrange Flowers? Carry a Ladder?***

If your answer is “yes,” the Sacred Space Team welcomes—and needs—you! They're the great group who arrange the Sanctuary. They welcome your help either monthly or seasonally. Let Dana Hollifield (303-242-9681) or Christy Jones (505-204-6867) know you'd like to help!

#### **Extend United's Welcome as a “Minister of Hospitality”**

Come at 9:30 for the 10:00 service and be the first in line to welcome people to United. It's simple—and it's central to who we want to be as a church community. Sign up on Sunday morning or contact Discipleship Development Chair Diane Darby (816-260-0127). Thanks!

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

Support for Ukrainian and Central American 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!