



THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
and
THE SUNDAY BEFORE EARTH DAY

April 19, 2026
10:00 A.M.



For Reflection:

To all of you down there on Earth and around Earth, we love you, from the Moon . . .
No matter where you're from or what you look like, we are one people.
Victor Glover, Artemis Astronaut

*When we saw tiny Earth... what struck me wasn't just Earth, it was all the [night] around it.
Earth was just this lifeboat hanging in the universe. . . .*

Ultimately we will always choose Earth. We will always choose each other.
Christina Koch, Artemis Astronaut

What was most significant about the lunar voyage was not that (humans) set foot on the Moon,
but that they set eye on the Earth.
Norman Cousins – Editor, *Saturday Review*
On the first moon launch – 1969

WE GATHER

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

Prelude

O Word of God Incarnate
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Mendelssohn/arr. Melissa Blanton
Spiritual/arr. Paul Thurmond

*Introit

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil (2x)
*(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu/John Bell

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than hate;
light is strong-er than dark - ness; life is strong-er than death.
Vic-t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours through God who loves us.
Vic-t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours through God who loves us.

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Welcome and Sharing of Our Life and Ministry

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

*Sharing the Gifts and Regathering ***Goodness Is Stronger than Evil*** (1x)

Tutu/Bell

The Welcoming of Visitors and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

Now the Green Blade Riseth

arr. Simon Lindley

The Call to Worship

Praise God, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair. ¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!

¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!

Praise God, who gathers up the fragments of our lives and creates new possibilities.

¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!

Praise God, who laid the foundation of the earth and all the children of God shouted for joy!

¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!

People of God, come. Shout for joy and sing your praise to God!

*Hymn 17 *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing* (vs. 1-4) Francis of Assisi/Lasst Uns Erfreuen

WE PREPARE

In a Prayer of Invocation from the Lakota Sacred Tradition

O our Father, the Sky, hear us and make us strong.

Lord, teach us and show us the way.

O our Mother, the Earth, hear us and give us support.

Lord, teach us and show us the way.

O Spirit of the East, send us your Wisdom.

Lord, teach us and show us the way.

O Spirit of the South, may we tread your path of life.

Lord, teach us and show us the way.

O Spirit of the West, may we always be ready for the long journey.

Lord, teach us and show us the way.

O Spirit of the North, purify us with your cleansing winds.

Lord, teach us and show us the way.

A Time of Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace

Stay with Us

Egil Hovland

*Our Song of Praise

To You, O God

Francis of Assisi/Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Now we who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take our part, sing your praises! Alleluia!

To you we lift our pain and care, receive the burdens that we bear.

Singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(During the hymn, children through 5th grade are invited to Kids United for stories and play time.)

WE ENGAGE

A Story from the First Easter

Luke 24:13-32

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

[The other continued] "But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

In Musical Reflection

Tenderness

Colin Gibson

Sermon

Seeing Through the Brokenness

Silence

A Musical Response

569

Touch the Earth Lightly

Shirley Erena Murray/Tenderness

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer

Lover of all creation, of blue sky and dark earth, ponderosa and piñon, desert and forest, moon, sun, and all the stars, we your people lift our prayers to you.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We thank you for creating us from the dust of the earth and breathing into us the breath of life.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We thank you that we can know you in the beauty and bounty of the earth – and also in its brokenness.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Make us mindful of our connection to all creation, and give us the courage; grant us the wisdom to care for one another and for your world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

You who promise new life in this season and all seasons, hear our prayers for this lifeboat earth and for all with whom we share life on this planet.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For rain in a thirsty land and hope in an arid time,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all your animals and birds, plants and trees, rivers and lakes, all creation that suffers because of drought and misuse, because of human greed or war.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all whose hearts are broken because of human violence, be it toward our brothers and sisters or the rest of creation,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the wisdom to conserve and the grace to share earth's bounty and beauty with generations yet to come; for the courage to love this world and all its people as you so love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of our nation and all nations to have your courage and vision to make hard decisions for the common good, to what it takes to repair and restore this beloved planet that is our home.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you who hears every prayer of every heart, hear now the prayers of this people we lift to you.

(A time of silent prayer)

Hear all of our prayers, spoken and unspoken. Remind us that you are the One who listens and who sees. Help us to be a people who do the same—listening to one another and all creation; seeing you in both beauty and brokenness of our world.

Giver of life and new life, put a new and right spirit within us so that through our lives, all people and all creation might know your love and blessing. We pray in your name and with boldness, courage, and trust saying:

(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.)

Sharing Our Gifts

Come, Follow Me

McBurney/arr. Paul Cardall


Prayer of Dedication

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

Jeffrey Rowthorn/Truro



1. Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace
2. Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold
3. Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace
4. In dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims

the bold de - signs of fur - thest space;
earth's mys - teries known or yet un - told;
all now op - pressed for creed or race;
one fam - ily of a bil - lion names;

Let sun and moon and stars and light
Let wa - ter's fra - gile blend with air,
Let peace, de - scend - ing as the dove,
Let ev - 'ry life be touched by grace

and what lies hid - den praise your might.
en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care!
an - nounce on earth your heal - ing love.
un - til we praise you face to face.

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*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie eleison

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory!

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We're glad you've joined us for worship and hope you'll stay for fellowship time afterward. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

We welcome the youth and their advisors from the Village Church United Church of Christ from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who are in Santa Fe for their annual work and learning week in and around northern New Mexico.

Sharing leadership are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Music Director and Pianist; the Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; Media Consultant Elijah Marquez and volunteer Frank Wilbanks. (Liturgists to be announced.) You were greeted by Ministers of Hospitality Rosemary Thompson, Blanca Surgeon, Dana Hollifield, Pam Hyde and Karen Wilbanks with Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

Kids United

Children 5th grade and up are invited to the Nurture Center and Education Wing for stories of Easter (and some play time) with volunteer Karen Wilbanks and Children's Ministry Assistants Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.

United Church Runs on Volunteers! – Today at 11:15 am

Come to today's Forum and meet all the people (or at least many of them) who keep United's ministries going!
(There'll be muffins ☺)

COMING UP THIS WEEK

What Are Biblical Values? – Pretty Good Guys

Wednesday, April 22 – 10:30 am to 12:00 noon

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 for purchase in the Community Room.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Wednesday rehearsals resume this week. For info: André García-Nuthmann (unitedchurch.andregn@gmail.com) or Michelle Schumann (unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com).

Resiliency and Hope: Unpacking the Gospel of John

Thursdays at 8:00 am on Zoom

John’s Gospel is beautiful, confusing, challenging, troubling, and head-scratching. All welcome to join in this in-depth study. (Please register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

LOOKING AHEAD

The Climate: Social, Material, Moral-Spiritual

Sunday Forums: April 26, May 3 and 10 with Larry Rasmussen

More than the planet’s material climate is changing. So, too, is the social and moral-spiritual context and climate. These three forums, led by Environmental Ethicist Larry Rasmussen (Professor Emeritus – Union Seminary), address where we are, how we got here, and what our constructive responses might be.

The Material (or Planetary) Climate (April 26)

“Climate change” is a symptom of more far-reaching, and more consequential, changes. Most neglected, and most important (for New Mexico!), are changes to and in the oceans.

The Social and Moral-Spiritual Climate (May 3)

What happens to the planetary climate intimately impacts society, and vice versa. This week, our attention goes to the moral-spiritual challenges to Christianity. They are deep, since they reach back to the nation’s founding and now find a new intensity and influence in the Christian nationalism of several national office-holders.

The Climate at This Moment (May 10)

Participants will sit as jurors for three cases rendering decisions about what should now be done for the comprehensive climate-social, moral-spiritual, and material.

United Walking Group – This Saturday, April 25 (10:00 am)

For this easy two-mile, paved walk, meet in the park across from the Glitz Cosmetology School (55 Canada del Rancho, park in front or back) in Rancho Viejo. Bring water, a snack, sunscreen, hat, and a walking stick (if needed). Barbara Christiano (Figaro@wcvr.com, 802-792-3424), Diane Darby (ddarbysf@gmail.com, 816-260-0127)

LOVE GOD BY LOVING NEIGHBOR AND LOVING CREATION

Youth Reach Out to Help at the Food Depot – This Saturday, April 25 (1:00-3:00 pm)

Youth Confirmants/ Initiates volunteer at the Food Depot this Saturday from 1:00- 3:00 pm. Contact Family Ministries Director Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com) for more information.

Santa Fe River Cleanup – Saturday, May 9 (8:30-10:00 am)

Help care for a corner of Creation where Closson St. ends at the river. Donuts, coffee, trash bags provided. Wear a hat, sunscreen, gloves. Grabbers also helpful. Sign up today; call 505-988-3295, or email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Thanks!

From supporting Santa Fe’s Shelters to helping our Diné/Navajo kindred to advocating for immigrants and refugees, United Church of Santa Fe offers multiple ways to love our neighbors near and far. *Go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to find more information and donate online (or send a check to 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe, NM 87505).*

Somos Un Pueblo Unido: May Day March & Rally for Immigrants – Friday, May 1

Join *Somos Un Pueblo Unido* for the International Workers’ Day march and rally to support immigrants. **March:** gather at **4:30 pm** behind the **Greer Garson Theater** (1600 St. Michaels Dr.). **Rally:** gather at **6:00 pm** at **General Franklin E. Miles Park** (1027 Camino Carlo Rey).

Love in Action Arts Camp – United Church – June 15-19 (9:00 to 3:00)

Looking for a fun and valuable day camp for elementary-age children? Sign up for United’s *Love in Action Arts Camp*! **The cost is \$125 per camper for the entire week and includes lunch and snacks.** (Scholarships also available.) Children will explore kindness, belonging, and caring for the earth through biblical stories, music, art, drama, photography, cooking, and more! We have a robust and talented group of leaders for this camp. Please go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to register! Questions? Please contact Director of Family Ministry Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com).