

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD
IN
CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION**

**EASTER SUNDAY
March 31, 2024**

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



Reflections for Easter Sunday 2024

Only God is able. It is faith in God that we must rediscover. With this faith we can transform bleak and desolate valleys into sunlit paths of joy and bring new light into the dark caverns of pessimism. Is someone here moving toward the twilight of life and fearful of that which we call death? Why be afraid? God is able. Is someone here on the brink of despair because of the death of a loved one, the breaking of a marriage, or the waywardness of a child? Why despair? God is able to give you the power to endure that which cannot be changed. Come what may, God is able.

Let this affirmation be our ringing cry. It will give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom. When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds and our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a great benign Power in the universe whose name is God, and God is able to make a way out of no way, and to transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. This is our hope for becoming better human beings. This is our mandate for seeking to make a better world.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968

Helen Keller was asked if there was anything worse than losing one's sight.
She thought for a moment and then replied, "Yes, losing your vision."

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

The Day of Resurrection

Lancashire/Henry Thomas Smart

Trumpet Fanfare

*Introit

Zimbabwe Alleluia (2x)

Abraham Maraire

**Please rise in body or spirit.*



Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts of Peace, Hope, and New Life

*Sharing the Easter Proclamation from Christian and Navajo Traditions

"Christos anesti!" ("Aleithos anesti!")

"Christ is risen!" ("Risen indeed!")

"Beauty is restored again!" ("Restored indeed!")

*Regathering

Zimbabwe Alleluia (2x)

Abraham Maraire

Welcoming of Visitors and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

WE REMEMBER THE JOURNEY

The Journey to this Day

Palm Sunday (**congregation-bold**)

Mark 11:1-10 (cond.)

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, two of his disciples . . . brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

A Song from Last Sunday

Hosanna!

St. Theodulph

Hosanna in the highest! That ancient song is ours.

We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers.

Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!

The company of angels are praising you on high;

Creation and all mortals in chorus make reply.

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went,

Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

Silence

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his tunic, woven in one piece. "Let us not tear it," they said to one another, "but cast lots to see who will get it." This is what they did at the foot of the cross.

Then Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A soldier put a wine-soaked sponge on a branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is accomplished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, a follower of Jesus (and member of the Council), and Nicodemus, a religious leader who had at first come to Jesus by night, came to take Jesus' body down from the cross. They wrapped it with spices in linen cloths. Near to where he was crucified was a new tomb. They laid Jesus there.

Musical Remembrance

My Song Is Love Unknown

Samuel Crossman/Rhosymedre

Silence

Today!

Mark 16:1-4

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

Silence

Song

Praise the Lord

Cameroon

(First time solo. Then the Choir. Then the whole congregation rises to join in!)

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

***Our Proclamation of Faith**

Sing to the Lord a new song for God has done marvelous things! ;Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ;Aleluya!

Sing to the God of new life! ;Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ;Aleluya!

Sing to the Lord who brings light to the world and joy in the morning!

;Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ;Aleluya!

Sing to the Lord who brings life out of death and victory over the grave!

;Canten al Dios de nueva vida! ;Aleluya! ;Aleluya! ;Aleluya!

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing,
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led,

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say:
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save,
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise,

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply:
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,

Words - ©1992 The Pilgrim Press. Used by Permission. OneLicense.net #A-711427

WE PREPARE FOR NEW LIFE

A Prayer of Invocation (based on a sermon of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

We praise you, O God, that by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,

You have shown us time and again, you are able,

able to deliver us from the power of death,

able to make a way out of no way,

able to overcome our fears with your love and new life.

Give us the courage to entrust our lives to you and the faith to know that you are able,

able to transform desolate valleys into sunlit paths of joy,

able to bring new life into the dark caverns of pessimism,

able to help us face the uncertainties of the future

and turn dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.

May our faith in you be our hope for being better human beings.

May the power of your new life be our mandate to make a better world for all your people. Amen.

A Time for Silent Prayer

*Our Song of Praise

Easter Hymn

*Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given. Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now. Alleluia! Hail, the Resurrection thou! Alleluia!*

WE ENGAGE THE STORY

The Story of this Day (cong. in bold—Mary of Magdala’s part)

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, **“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”** Then the two disciples set out and ran towards the tomb. The other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in. . . . Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, **“They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”** When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, **“Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”** Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, **“Rabbouni!”** (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to God our Creator. But go to my disciples and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my God and your God.’” Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, **“I have seen the Lord;”** and she told them that he had said these things to her.

A Song of Resurrection

Morning Has Broken

Eleanor Farjeon/Bunessan

*Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!*

*Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning! Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God’s recreation of the new day.*

Music - ©2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-711427

The Easter Message

Everyday Easter

Silent Reflection

The Affirmation in Song

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Trad. American/arr. Alice Parker

*Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.*

*Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the lamb!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, glory to the great I AM!*

*And my soul, tho’ stain’d with sorrow, fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o’er those waters, to the city far away.*

*Souls have cross’d before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.*

WE RESPOND

With Our Prayers (based on the writings of John Muir, Amanda Gorman, and Jeffrey Rowthorn)

God of ceaseless new beginnings, you have done the completely unexpected deed. In the Resurrection, you faced down death and raised Jesus Christ to life.

¡Gracias a Dios!

You transformed frightened disciples and ordinary women into your witnesses for new life in this world.

Even now, you turn despair into wonder and fill all creation with hope.

¡Gracias a Dios!

On this Easter, transform our lives that we might transform this world.

Help us trust your Resurrection power in each of our lives and all life.

Señor, escúchanos.

Creating God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

Open our eyes and ears to your world born new with each sunrise.

Open our hearts and minds to the possibility contained in every seed, every person, every breath.

Señor, escúchanos.

Redeeming God, you gather up the fragments of our lives and create new possibilities.

Pour out your liberating power and free us from the fears that keep us from your abundant life.

Pour out your wisdom that we might “merge mercy with might and let your love become our legacy.”

Señor, escúchanos.

Loving God, you embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Make us channels of your love for all peoples and all creation.

Give us the courage to dream your new world, your beloved community of life and all its glory.

Señor, escúchanos.

Hear now our prayers we offer in the silence of our hearts.

(A time of silent prayer)

We pray in the name of the Risen Christ, your word of love made flesh in our world, your Eternal Sunrise that dispels all shadow, your Incarnate Word who taught us to pray to you with boldness, courage—and most of all—trust, saying: *(Please pray the Lord’s Prayer in a version familiar to you.)*

With Our Resources

O Happy Day

arr. John Helgen

(Your offerings are a tangible sign of God’s new life and hope. They support all the ministries of the United Church of Santa Fe, from our care for the wider community and world to our work with children and youth to the ministries of music, pastoral care, and creation advocacy. We invite you to be generous. You can also donate online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you!)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

WE GO WITH PRAISE

*Hymn

Yours Is the Glory

Judas Maccabeus

(If you wish to sing “The Hallelujah Chorus,” please join the choir at the front during the hymn.)

***Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o’er death have won.
Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away; Conquered is the grave in which your body lay.
Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o’er death have won.***

***See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared; Do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing; Tell it without ceasing: Death has lost its sting.
Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o’er death have won.***

Words - ©1993 The Pilgrim Press. Used by Permission. OneLicense.net #A-711427

*Reading the Names

(We remember members and friends in the congregation who died this past year. You are also invited to name others.)

*A Moment of Silence to Remember

*Benediction

**The Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah*

George Frederick Handel



Special Remembrances (2024)

The Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary and outside worship are given to the glory of God and . . .

In Loving Memory Of:

Rev. Homer & Mary Louise Akers
Elizabeth Standring Arnold & Lee Arnold
Dr. & Mrs. A.A. Ashby
Dr. Charles & Jean Ashby
Sherman & Kathryn Ashby
Gardner & Florence Black
Nancy Blake
Betty Bordner
John Bray-Morris II
Rev. Betsy Bueschel
Rev. Robert Burt
Dr. & Mrs. W.A. Cassidy
James E. Corbin
Uriel L. & Nora B. Corbin
Connie Drew
Jean and Vernon Duncan
Ellingboe Parents & Grandparents
Yvonne Fairchild
Richard & Moira Flanagan
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fricke
John Garman & Levone Kail
Rev. Paul Gaston
Michael Graves
Rev. Mary & Rev. Shirley Greene
Conferina Gregory
Tim Hayward
Patricia & Luther H. Hoopes
Alda Jansen
Henk Jansen
Maggi E. Konzen
Mary Ann Khuri
Josephine Lanz
Diane Lindsay
Brett Lindsey
Bea Loennecke
Irene Madrid
Michael McCabe
Monica Merchand
Lisa Murphy
Jerry Nelson
Mary Noonan
Julia Northrop
Alice Parker
Jim Patinka
Norm Patinka
Dave & Jean Popp
Robert & Annabel Raymond
Right Rev. Keith Riglin, Bishop of Argyle
Olivia Angelic Rindone-Dodson

Andy Ritch
John J. Romero III
Anne Rowthorn
Ann Rutledge
Gladys & Ed Rutschman
Sister Janice Ryan, O.S.M.
Gary Salman
Rev. Deborah Spaar Sanchez
Stephen & Helen Sawtell
Gloria & William Sawtell
Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Sawtell, Sr.
Claire Standring Schoenfelder
Marj & Bud Sewing
Rev. Dr. Reuben A. Sheares, II
Beatrice Pruden Skeen
Grace Dexter Skeen
Fred Smith
Ken Squires
Talitha B. & T. Wirt Standring
John Blanding Stewart
Frances Thomas
Viola M. Varble
Terry Vermillion
Ben Whitehill
Hazel Winger
Eric Yeomans

In Grateful Honor and with Love for:

In gratitude for the staff and congregation of UCSF
Rev. Talitha Arnold
Rev. Joan Bates Forsberg
Byron Harris
Newborns Eva Agatha and Nora Louise
Helen Wagner
Niki Woodruff



Welcome to the United Church of Santa Fe!

We're glad you have joined in this Easter Celebration and invite you to join the life and ministry of United in the coming weeks. For information, please call the church office (505-988-3295) or go to our website (unitedchurchofsantafe.org). Again, welcome and blessings for Easter!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Minister; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Dr. Jessie Lo, Pianist; the Sanctuary Choir; Choral Scholar Soloists Rebecca Brunette, Yasmeen Lookman, Quiara Cortez, Steve Kerchoff; Keith Cochrane, trumpet; David Darby, percussion; Natalie Benham, Fallon Grafe, Ophelia Grafe, Luke Rand, Tom Stewart, Liturgists; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez, with Frank Wilbanks. Many thanks also to the Sacred Space Team, Children's/Youth Ministry volunteers Karen Wilbanks, Gail Ansheles, and Maria Navarette; Sunday Aide Luiz Zapata; greeters and ushers (organized by Diane Darby); Reception Coordinator Nancy Merchat and her crew; and Office Administrator Lin Raymond, with volunteers Maggie Popp, Joan Sickler. And thanks to all of you who joined in this wonderful morning!

After the service, **children and youth are invited to the Easter Piñata Party** outside at the back of the church. Adults are also invited to watch the fun and/or just enjoy conversation, coffee, and cupcakes outside, too.

Next Sunday, Rev. Talitha Arnold is guest preacher-in residence at Wellesley (MA) Village United Church of Christ, returning Tues., Apr. 9. For pastoral emergencies, please call the office (505-988-3295) or Caregiver on Call (Paul Vogel, 847-366-0677).

All-Church All-Age Community Supper and Game Night – This Friday, Apr. 5 – 5:30 to 7:30

For everyone—all ages, members, friends, families, neighbors! The Church provides the meal for an evening of fellowship, games, and outdoor exploration for our youngest ones. We'll share supper, then have ping-pong and cornhole tournaments for youth and adults and outdoor exploration for children. All welcome! **Please sign up in the Community Room today or at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com by this Wednesday, April 3. Hope to see you!**

Get to Know United – Sunday Forum, April 14—11:15

Would you like more info about the United Church of Santa Fe—who we are, what we believe, what we do, how we're organized, etc., etc. Sign up to join the April 14 Forum! It's a great way to get acquainted!

LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, CREATION

That's Our Goal at the United Church of Santa Fe – in a host of ways!

More info at unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

Love Neighbor . . .

- Monthly Suppers for Interfaith Shelter, St. E's, and Casa Familia. (Pat Roach, 505-988-7357)
- Ukrainian and Palestinian Refugee Relief, Navajo/Dine support; Border Ministries, BookKids, and more.

Love Creation. . .

- *Compost for Creation* (with Reunity Resources), *Carbon Offset Program* (with NM Interfaith Power and Light; Tree New Mexico); *SF River Cleanup* (with SF Watershed Assoc.) Sat., April 27 (8:30-10:00 am)

United Welcomes New Members – Sunday, April 21

Interested in "officially" joining the United Church? Please let Rev. Talitha Arnold or Discipleship Chair Diane Darby.

Fellowship/Study Groups

Women's Study Group – This Wednesday, April 3 (10:00 am)

Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday, April 10 (10:30 am)

"Faith and Resilience" Bible Study Group – Thursdays (April 11 and 18) via Zoom (8:00 am)

