

**A Service of Ancient Word and New Prayers
for
The Third Sunday of Epiphany
January 22, 2023**

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

A Word of Introduction

This past November, our Youth Initiates (8th/9th graders) discussed the powerlessness we can feel when faced with many world issues. They also explored *intercessory prayer*, sometimes called “standing in the gap,” which is when we lift up to God the needs and concerns of others. It is an expression of *agape*, or selfless love. We then researched the United Nations’ “Global Sustainable Goals” and thought about ways we could send out prayers and elevate others who struggle or suffer. Each Initiate chose a specific goal to write—and pray—about. They share their prayers in today’s service.

Music for Gathering

*Introit

Standing in the Need of Prayer
(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

African American Spiritual

[Refrain] ***It’s me, it’s me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;
It’s me, it’s me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.***

***Not my brother, nor my sister, but it’s me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;
Not my brother, nor my sister, but it’s me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.***

[Refrain]

***Not my father, not my mother, but it’s me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;
Not my father, not my mother, but it’s me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.***

[Refrain]

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God’s Gifts

*Sharing God’s Gifts and Regathering

***It’s me, it’s me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;
It’s me, it’s me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.***

***Not my neighbor, nor the stranger, but it’s me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;
Not my neighbor, nor the stranger, but it’s me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.***

[Refrain]

Breathing in God’s Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

This Little Light of Mine

trad. African American

The Call to Worship (congregation in bold)

Blessed be the name of God, from this time on and forevermore.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of God is to be praised.**

It is good to give thanks to God, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

**To declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night.**

*Hymn 173

You Have Come down to the Lakeshore

Cesáreo Gabaraín/Pescador de Hombres

(1st English; 1st Spanish, 2nd English)

(After the hymn, children and younger youth are invited to the Education Wing.)

WE PREPARE

Musical Call to Prayer

Light Everlasting

O.C. Christiansen

Prayer of Invocation

**Eternal Spirit of the universe,
we thank you that you do not leave us alone,
but place your word within us
and in the midst of our life together.
You are no statue made of silver or gold,
but a living reality on the face of the earth.
Give us the courage and commitment
to let your winds blow through us
and to let your life be revealed among us.
Empowered by your Spirit,
may we share our life together with joy,
care for the needs of your people,
bear witness to your love through our lives,
and praise you day by day.
We pray in your name. Amen.**

Silent Prayer and Words of Assurance

Our Song of Faith and Praise

You Have Come down to the Lakeshore

Pescador de Hombres

*You who have fished other waters; you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
As loving Friend, you have come to call me.
O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes; kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat; now with you I will seek other seas.*

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Calling of the Disciples

Matthew 4:18-20

As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Teaching the Disciples

Luke 11:1

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

A Word of Introduction

Kate Murphy, Director of Youth Ministries

Call to Prayer (Psalm 4:1)

*Answer us when we call, O God.
You give us room when we are in distress.
Be gracious to your people and hear our prayers.*

A Prayer to End Poverty

Bailey Gordon

Call to Prayer (Psalm 32:6)

*Let all who are faithful
Offer prayer to you.*

A Prayer for Equality

Derek Darby

Song

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (2x)

Ken Medema

*Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying. Send your light, send your power, send your grace.*

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Call to Prayer (Psalm 145:15)

*The eyes of all look to you, O God,
and you give them their food in due season.*

A Prayer for Food

Weston Puglisi

Call to Prayer (Psalm 104:24)

*O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.*

A Prayer for All Ecosystems

Sasha Smucker

Song

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (2x)

Ken Medema

***Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying. Send your light, send your power, send your grace.***

Call to Prayer (Psalm 85:8)

*Let us hear what God the Lord will speak,
for God will speak peace to the people,
to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.*

A Prayer for Peace and for Justice

Luke Rand

(Silent Reflection)

Song

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (2x)

Ken Medema

***Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying. Send your light, send your power, send your grace.***

WE RESPOND

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer *(Please pray a version familiar to you.)*

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn 164

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Ruth Duck/Festal Song

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison (3x)

Ukrainian Orthodox

We're glad you've joined in worship and hope you'll share in upcoming programs and outreach ministries. Again, welcome!

In addition to the Youth Initiates, sharing leadership are Rev. Ben Larzelere; Kate Murphy, Director of Youth Ministries; Jessie Lo, Pianist; the Sanctuary Choir with guest Conductor Gabrielle Dietrich; and Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez.

Initiation to Adulthood

The passage from childhood through adolescence into adulthood can be a challenging one in many ways. The United Church of Santa Fe takes this transition seriously and seeks to guide and encourage youth in their journeys of life and faith. For young adolescents (8th to 10th graders), we offer a 2-year "Rite of Initiation to Adulthood" that incorporates traditional confirmation and also engages youth in four major areas of adult life: Self, Society, Sexuality and Spirituality/Faith. The current program started this past September, but new youth are *always* welcome to join in. For more information, please speak with Dir. of Youth Ministries Kate Murphy or Pastor Talitha Arnold.

Today in Children's Ministry – Helping Hands

Every hand can help—especially when our hands are joined with others. This Sunday, we'll start making our "Helping Hands" Quilt with our own hand prints. All welcome!

Youth Ministry

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

- **Young Adventurers (5th-7th; during 10:00 worship):** Join in worship.
- **Youth Initiates (8th-10th; 11:15 Sundays):** We share our intercessory prayers in worship. After the service we discuss the relationship between silence and God's grace.

Housing, Homelessness, and Ways to Help – Today's 11:15 Forum

As the former Director of St. Elizabeth Shelter and of New Mexico Coalition for the Homeless, United member and SF County Commissioner Hank Hughes knows a lot about the people and issues of homelessness and housing. We're fortunate to be able to learn from his experiences and insights.

Talitha Arnold is on study leave through Tuesday, January 24. If a pastoral need arises, please call Office Administrator Lin Raymond at the church office (505-988-3295) or the Caregiver on Call (John Shaffer, 505-466-4372).

Resiliency and Hope: Biblical Stories for Our Time

Thursdays at 8:00 am – Zoom (please register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

This ongoing study explores Biblical characters who overcame hardships of all kinds. All welcome!

Church Council meets this Thursday, Jan. 26, at 5:15 pm.

“Chop and Grate” Morning for Santa Fe Shelters – This Friday, Jan. 27 (9:30 am)

Prepare veggies and cheese for casseroles for SF Shelters. Meet new friends, provide good food, have fun! Please RSVP.

GAME NIGHT! – This Friday (6:30 - 8:30 pm)

Everyone's invited to share in a variety of games (and snacks) for a slightly competitive, full-of-laughter night. Please RSVP: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/childrens-events-registrations. Bring your game face!

“Get to Know United!” – Next Sunday's 11:15 Forum

To learn more about the United Church of Santa Fe and the United Church of Christ, come to this Newcomers' Gathering. It's also a chance to meet new friends. To RSVP, please write unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or sign up in the Community Room.

United Church Advocacy Day at the State Legislature – Monday, Jan. 30

Join in United's annual Advocacy Day focused on homelessness, environmental concerns, immigration, and prevention of gun violence. We meet at the church at 8:30 for a brief orientation, then carpool to the Capitol to visit our legislators and end with lunch at a local restaurant. The more participants the more legislators we can visit! Please RSVP to Marilyn Gardner (505-331-6600, mjg1230@comcast.net) by Jan. 22. Information packets sent to registrants prior to Jan. 30.

Can You Pray for a Child Once a Day?

United's Prayer Child program matches children and youth with adults who promise to pray for them every day. If you'd like to be a “Pray-er,” please contact Talitha Arnold (505-988-3295). Thanks!

Way Down in Beulah Lan'—Celebration of African American Sacred Music

FebFest 2023 with nationally known conductor Dr. André Thomas

Choral Workshop – Sat. Feb. 4 and Concert—Sun. Feb. 3 (3:00 pm)

Once again United Church and *Coro Lux* (the Albuquerque choir directed by Bradley Ellingboe) offer FebFest, an annual celebration of African American Sacred Music traditions. This year's is the biggest and best one yet! Our special guest is Dr. André Thomas, composer, conductor, president of the American Choral Directors Association, and Associate Artist/Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra. The event is open to all interested singers. Saturday rehearsals and workshops are Sat., Feb. 4 (at United church, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm). The festival choir's work culminates in a free concert at The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis at 3:00 pm Sun., Feb. 5, with a free-will offering to benefit Habitat for Humanity. To join in as a singer, go to abqcorolux.org/tickets/ to register. The cost of the in-person workshop is \$75 (online is \$50—but in-person is best!). Cost includes sheet music, Saturday lunch, workshops, rehearsals—and the chance to sing with one of the nation's top conductors. Come and bring a friend!

United's Sanctuary Choir sings Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with New Mexico Philharmonic

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023 – 6:00 pm

United's Sanctuary Choir, together with Albuquerque's *Coro Lux*, joins forces with the New Mexico Philharmonic in Beethoven's magnificent Ninth Symphony, including the choral finale known as “Ode to Joy.” The concert is one night only, in UNM's Popejoy Hall, Sat., Feb. 11, 6:00 pm. Tx: nmphil.org/event/the-greatest-beethovens-9th-february-11-2023/

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

Support for Ukrainian and Afghan refugees, reducing our carbon impact, emergency funds for our Diné/Navajo neighbors, and more! Go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to find out how you can help. Thank you!

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle!

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (e.g., food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Pick up compostable garbage bags at the church (NO standard plastic bags, please), fill them at home, and bring them back to put in the green bin by the Children's Garden. More things in the compost bin means less in the landfill. Info at reunityresources.com or call Melanie Lohmann (505-617-0700). Thanks!