

**A Service of Word and Sacrament
for
The Sixth Sunday of Epiphany
February 8, 2026
The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ**

God's Wisdom through the Prophet Isaiah
(58:1-12)

Shout out; do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.
You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

WE GATHER

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

Music for Gathering

*Blues No. 1
Meditation on Beach Spring*

Aaron Copland
Melissa Blanton

*Introit

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Negro Spiritual

*I'm gonna live so God can use me, any time, Lord, and anywhere.
I'm gonna live so God can use me, any time, Lord, and anywhere.
I'm gonna work so God can use me, any time, Lord, and anywhere.
I'm gonna work so God can use me, any time, Lord, and anywhere.*

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing God's Blessings and Regathering in Song

*I'm gonna pray so God can use me, any time, Lord, and anywhere.
I'm gonna pray so God can use me, any time, Lord, and anywhere.*

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

Just a Closer Walk

arr. Harold Best

The Call to Worship from Psalm 147

Praise God! Sing praises to our God; for God is gracious and a song of praise is fitting.

God determines the number of the stars;

God gives to all of them their names.

God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

**Great is our God and abundant in power,
whose understanding is beyond measure.**

Sing to God with thanksgiving, make melody to God on the lyre.

**God covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth,
and makes grass grow on the hills.**

Hope in God's steadfast love, O people, and sing your praise to God!

*Hymn 332

As We Gather at Your Table

Beach Spring

WE PREPARE

In a Prayer of Invocation

Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us forth from the womb of your being and breathed into us the breath of life. We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from you. Feed our deep hungers with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ. May Jesus' promise, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" be fulfilled in us. Make us a joyful company of your people so that with the faithful in every time and place we may praise and honor you, God Most High. Amen.

A Time of Silent Prayer

The Affirmation of God's Presence

*Our Song of Praise

From All That Dwell below the Skies

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung! Let God the Spirit free each tongue!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*(During the hymn, children through 5th grade are invited to the Nurture Center
for Kids United with Dana Bender and volunteer Tracy Church.)*

WE ENGAGE

From the First Letter of Paul to the United Church of Corinth

I Corinthians 2:1-5, 2:1

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. . .

[I hear that there is division among you because of baptism] but Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? . . . For the religious ones ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both religious and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong . . .

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Christ crucified.

Musical Response

Teach Us Wisdom

Ken Medema and Cathy Chamblee

Sermon

The Wisdom of Weakness

God's Wisdom through the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 58:1-12

Time of Silence

Musical Response 583

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

Daniel Bechtel/Austin

Presenting our Gifts

Offertory

How Great the Wisdom and Love

arr. Paul Cardall

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing the Gift of Communion (*All welcome to share in Communion.*)

Remembering the Story

Thanking God and Inviting One Another

For the gifts of creation that give us life,

we give thanks to our Creator.

For the gift of bread that nourishes our bodies,

we give thanks to our Sustainer.

For the gift of love that transforms our lives,

we give thanks to the Source of Love.

For the gift of community and the people with whom we share it,

let us give thanks to the God of all and welcome all to this table.

The Prayer of Blessing

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(All are welcome to share in Communion. As your section is called, please come down the designated aisle, please come forward to receive the bread or a nongluten wafer. Then either dip the bread into the chalice or take one of the individual cups and return to your seat by the next aisle. Again, all are welcome!)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have renewed us at your table with your gifts of bread, cup, and your transforming love. Strengthen our faith, bless us with your wisdom, increase our love for one another. Then send us into your world in courage and peace. Empower us to follow in your ways of hope and justice and to let our lives be re-created every day by your love. Amen.

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn 164

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Ruth Duck/Festal Song

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!

We're glad you've joined in worship this morning and invite you to share in upcoming programs, study groups, and outreach ministries. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Michelle Schumann, D.M.A., Music Director/Pianist; Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; Family Minister Dana Bender; Liturgist Leo Joyce Brown; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez with volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Blanca Surgeon, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, Diane Darby, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

Kids United

This Sunday, led by Family Ministry Director Dana Bender and volunteer Tracy Church, *Kids United* explore the colors of the church seasons.

Gospels: Who Is Jesus? – Youth Confirmation/Initiation (Today – 11:15 am)
with Talitha Arnold and Dana Bender

Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday, Feb. 11, 10:30 am

This winter and 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: Unpacking the Gospel of John
Thursdays at 8:00 am – Zoom (please register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

John’s Gospel begins in the cosmos and ends with breakfast on the beach. In between is beautiful, confusing, challenging, troubling, head-scratching scripture. All welcome to join in this in-depth study.

Christmas Lights Removal – Next Saturday, Feb. 14 (10:00-11:30 am)

Join Property/Maintenance chair Bob Ansheles in taking down the Christmas lights as we move from the season of Epiphany to the season of Lent. Sign up at United or by email (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

Mardi Gras Sunday and Pancake Breakfast – Next Sunday, Feb. 15

We welcome jazz pianist Andy Kingston as our guest in the 10:00 service! So find your beads, put on your dancing shoes, and bring a friend to join in United’s annual, toe-tapping Mardi Gras service! (And stay for the Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the Pretty Good Guys, after worship!)

Prayer Child Ministry Continues

Did you know that United includes 25 active children, ages birth through high school? All of these young people are navigating the joys, pressures, and obstacles associated with growing up in these uncertain times. United has a history of linking adults (1:1) with an assigned child that they pray for on a regular basis. The purpose is to intentionally include each of our young people in prayer, but it’s also a way to connect adults with children with whom they might otherwise not get to know. If you are interested in being a “pray-er” for a child in this congregation, or simply want more information, please sign up on the sheet in the Community Room, OR reach out to Dana Bender at unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com.

New Members Welcomed the Joyous Sunday of Lent, March 15

Interested? Please speak with Talitha. If interested, but can’t come March 15, let us know that, too.

Donations for Faith Coalition for Immigration

United Church is a founding member of the new Santa Fe Faith Coalition for Immigration, and we invite donations for two partner organizations that support children’s education. Please use Community Room bins for Santa Fe Public Schools’ **Adelante Program** (19-inch backpacks, 1-inch 3-ring binders, and watercolor sets) and for Reading Quest (new or clean and gently-used stuffed animals, toys, and games). Thank you.

Compost Collection – It’s a Miracle!

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (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 back to put in the green bin by the Children’s Garden. More things in compost bins means less in landfills. Thanks!

Care for Creation and Offset Your Carbon Use

United’s “Carbon Offset Program” helps plant trees and change policies to address climate change. It’s simple to do: track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to our partners *SF Watershed Association* and *NM Interfaith Power and Light*. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham Signs Immigrant Safety Act

Last Thursday, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed House Bill 9 – “The Immigrant Safety Act” that calls for the termination or non-renewal of interagency contracts that facilitate the operation of detention centers such as the ones in Torrance, Cibola and Otero counties. The act also bans the use of state land for immigration detention and prohibits local police from entering into 287(g) federal agreements allowing them to perform immigration duties. The United Church of Santa Fe’s Immigration and Refugee Task Force had encouraged United members and friends to contact state Legislators to express their opinions regarding the bill.

Smith’s Community Inspiring Donations Program

United receives a percentage on all purchases at Smith’s when you use your Smith’s *rewards* card at check out at no additional cost to you. To register your *rewards* card online, go to smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations, sign into your account, look for “Inspiring Donations Program”, and type in “The United Church of Santa Fe.” Thanks!