

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for
THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

**The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ**

**August 25, 2024
10:00 A.M.**

For Reflection:

The grace of God means something like:
“Here is your life. You might never have been, but you *are*,
because the party wouldn’t have been complete without you.
Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen.
Don’t be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us.
It’s for you I created the universe. I love you.”

There’s only one catch.
Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you’ll reach out and take it.
Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.

Frederick Buechner (1926 – 2022), *Wishful Thinking*

WE GATHER

*(May the first note of the Prelude be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship.
Also please hold applause throughout worship. All that is offered is offered to the glory of God. Thank you.)*

Gathering Music	<i>Allegro appassionato</i>	Camille Saint-Saëns
*Congregational Introit	<i>Circle of Life</i> (2x) <i>(*Please rise in body or spirit.)</i>	Marty Haugen

***One great circle of life, living circle of love, plants and trees, seas and rivers, and the blessed sky above,
Creatures great, creatures small, one the web that weaves us all, in the circle of life.***

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Sharing Our Life and Ministry and Breathing in God’s Gifts

*Sharing God’s Blessings and Regathering in Song	<i>Circle of Life</i> (1x)	Marty Haugen
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Breathing in God’s Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship	<i>Hanson Place</i>	Robert Lowry
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The Call to Worship from The Book of Revelation (**congregation bold**)

I was shown a river.

A river of the water of life.

It was clear as a crystal.

It flowed by the throne and through the streets of the city.

A river of life flowed through the city.

I saw a tree.

It grew over both banks of the river.

It was the tree of life.

Its fruit was for the healing of the nations.

A tree for healing grew in the city.

I saw that everything evil was gone.

Lamps for light and the sun were gone.

Night itself was gone.

God’s face was the light for the city.

God’s face was the light for the city.

People of God, come. Sing your praise to the One who gives us the water of life, the tree of life, the gift of life.

WE PREPARE

*In A Prayer of Invocation (unison)

O God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promise that if we seek you with all our hearts, we will find you. Be among us this day. Hear the confessions of our mouths and the yearnings of our hearts. Help us change the narrowness of our vision and the pettiness of our living. Make us new again with your holy grace. Grant us the maturity to accept your many gifts in humility and to use them with faithfulness. Grant to us your spirit that our worship may have integrity and energy, ever witnessing to your holy presence in our lives. We praise and give thanks to you, Eternal Presence; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*In a Time of Silent Prayer

*In the Affirmation of Grace

*Our Song of Praise

Shall We Gather?

Lowry/Hanson Place

*Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage shall cease,
 Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.
 Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
 Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

(During the song, children are invited to Children's Ministry. Children may also stay with their parents, and if they like, check out the "Pray Room" at the back of the Sanctuary.)

WE ENGAGE GOD'S WORD

A Psalm for the Journey

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,
 O Lord of hosts!
 My soul longs, indeed it faints
 for the courts of the Lord;
 my heart and my flesh sing for joy
 to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home,
 and the swallow a nest for herself,
 where she may lay her young,
 at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
 my Ruler and my God.
 Happy are those who live in your house,
 ever singing your praise.

Happy are those whose strength is in you,
 in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
 As they go through the valley of Baca
 they make it a place of springs;
 the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength;
 the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
 give ear, O God of Jacob!

Behold our shield, O God;
 look on the face of your anointed.

For a day in your courts is better
 than a thousand elsewhere.
 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
 than live in the tents of wickedness.
 For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
 God bestows favor and honor.
 No good thing does the Lord withhold
 from those who walk uprightly.
 O Lord of hosts,
 happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Hymn 313

Like a Tree beside the Waters

James Martin/Silver Creek

Reflection

The Strength of Loveliness

Silent Reflection

Musical Reflection

Méditation from Thaïs

Jules Massenet

WE RESPOND

Sharing Our Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (*please pray any version*)

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn

Creating God

Jeffrey Rowthorn/Truro



1. Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -
 2. Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - teries
 3. Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now op -
 4. In dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - ily



signs of fur - thest space; Let sun and moon and
 known or yet un - told; Let wa - ter's fra - gile
 pressed for creed or race; Let peace, de - scend - ing
 of a bil - lion names; Let ev - 'ry life be



stars and light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
 blend with air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care!
 as the dove, an - nounce on earth your heal - ing love.
 touched by grace 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.

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We're glad you've joined in worship this morning, and we hope you found both the service and community engaging and enriching. We invite you also to join in the weeks ahead as together we "love God, Neighbor, and Creation." For more information about United, please visit our website unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Again, welcome!

We Invite Your Morning Offering

Your morning offering, along with regular pledges, makes possible the abundant life and ministry of the United Church. As you leave, please take a moment to leave your offering in the Community Room plates. Thank you!

Sharing leadership are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Jacquelyn Helin, Guest Pianist; Yasmeeen Lookman, Hymn Leader; Jaden Rand, Cellist; Luke Rand, Violinist; Janet Harris and Molly and Sam Elkind, Liturgists; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez with volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Diane Darby, Tom and Sally Stewart, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and a Sunday Aide from EGIS.

Who's Our Family? – All Creation!

Summer Children's Ministry

Every Sunday, United's kids explore different perspectives on "Who's Our Family?" All kids welcome! For those who wish to stay in the Sanctuary with their parents, please check out the "Pray-Ground" in the Library corner.

Join United's "Prayer Child" Ministry

Each fall, United members and friends volunteer to pray daily for a child or youth in our church. This year we're also asking Prayer Child Pray-ers to send cards (Christmas, Easter, etc.) to their "Pray-ees." (We provide addresses, cards, even stamps.) So, will you pray for a United kid? Sign up at church or unitedchurchsf@gmail.com. Thank you!

“Get to Know United!” – Today after the service

Like to learn about the United Church of Santa Fe and the United Church of Christ? Join today’s Newcomers’ Gathering!

United’s Sacred Native American Art

As summer draws to a close, take time after the 10:00 service to enjoy sacred art from Pueblo, Navajo/Diné, Apache, and many other Native American traditions.

HELP OUR FELLOWSHIP TIME BE ECO-FRIENDLY

Please join in the time for fellowship, coffee, and snacks after today’s service. And when you’re done, please put used cups and napkins in the compost bin in the Community Room. Thanks to Reunity Resources, they’ll be turned into great compost.

Talitha Arnold will be away from Wednesday, Aug. 28 to Wednesday, Sept. 4 to visit family. Should a pastoral emergency arise in Talitha’s absence, please call the church office (505-988-3295) or the Caregiver on Call (through August, Dusty Pruitt, 302-393-3265; in September, John Shaffer, 505-466-4372).

Pretty Good Guys – This Wednesday, August 28 (10:30-12:00)

After finishing “Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time,” the guys meet this Wednesday to discuss what comes next. All men invited to join them on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

Help Care for Creation Here on United’s Grounds! – Saturday, August 31 (9:00 am)

We’ve received a native plants “Pollinator Trail Kit” from Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation to plant and care for. This Saturday, Aug. 31, at 9:00 am, Linda Churchill needs two to four people to help plant 32 small flowering plants and one shrub. We also need people to water and watch over the plantings until next spring. Orientation for ongoing watering and care is either this Saturday or after 10:00 service next Sunday. Info or to sign up: linda@greenforwardllc.com.

Summer Food (and Finance) Drive for the Food Depot

United offers many ways to support The Food Depot. If you have a garden at home, add an extra row and bring extra produce to United to go to the Depot. Or bring non-perishable food items: canned vegetables/fruit, pasta, rice, dried beans, canned meats, soups, baby foods (powdered formula, cereal, jars), diapers. Monetary donations welcome: online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org or check (memo “Food Depot”). Deadline for donations is Sunday, Sept. 22. Thank you!

IN THE WINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals Begin Wednesday, Sept. 4, 7:00 pm

The Sanctuary Choir resumes rehearsals Wednesday, September 4 (7:00 pm) and sings in the 10:00 service Sunday, Sept. 8 (warmup at 9:00) All singers welcome! (Director of Music Brad Ellingboe: unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com)

Wednesday Women’s Study Group Starts Sept. 4 at 10:00 am with quite a reading list!

The Wednesday Women’s Study Group meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 10:00 to 11:30 am. Their reading list starts with *The Making of Biblical Womanhood* by Beth Allison Barr and *Lost Birds* by Anne Hillerman. Interested? Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, mommorton@gmail.com) or Jenn Wynn (817-219-0707, home@wynnes.us).

Also, on **September 18 at 10:00**, the Study Group invites the whole United congregation to a special presentation by **Anne Hillerman**, on her new book and her life and work as an award-winning author. Save the date now!

***Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls* – Thursday, Sept. 5 at 8:00 am (via Zoom)**

Explore next Sunday’s scriptures with Talitha Arnold and United members and friends from across Santa Fe and across the country. Sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or speak with Talitha for more information. (No meeting Aug. 29.)

United Church Commits to Love God, Neighbor, and Creation in a Whole Lot of Ways

From supporting our Diné/Navajo sisters and brothers to providing aid for refugees to feeding hungry people in Santa Fe and helping others recovering from New Mexico’s fires to composting waste into life-giving compost, United seeks to love our neighbors and God’s creation in all kinds of ways. Go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to find out more!

Palestinian/Israeli Visitors from *Roots* – September 15 and 16 at United

This coming month, United welcomes the founders of “Roots” a Palestinian/Israeli initiative for understanding, nonviolence, and transformation from the West Bank. *Roots* is dedicated to dialogue and trust between Palestinians and Israelis as a path to peace. Talitha Arnold met with *Roots*’ members in 2019 on a study trip to Israel/Palestine.

Palestinian activist Noor A’wad and Orthodox Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger will be our guests in the **10:00 Sunday, Sept. 15, Worship Service, followed by the 11:15 Sunday Forum.**

On **Monday evening, Sept. 16**, Rabbi Schlesinger and Mr. A’wad offer a community-wide presentation, 7:00 pm. (Mandatory pre-registration by Friday, Sept. 13 for this event: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/rootspresentation.)

To help with logistics for the *Roots* events (transportation, greeting etc.), please let Talitha know.

