

**A Service of the Word
for
The Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time**

August 13, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

God is already here.

For Reflection:

“As a young man with most of my life ahead of me, I decided early to give my life to something eternal and absolute. Not to these little gods that are here today and gone tomorrow. But to God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

WE GATHER

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

Prelude *Prelude from Suite No. 1 in G Major* J.S. Bach

*Introit *Circle of Life* (2x) Marty Haugen
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

*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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Welcome, Sharing Our Life and Ministry

Breathing in God's Blessing and Offer that Blessing to Students, Educators, and Parents

**May the Lord be your Shepherd.
May you never be in want.**

**May God make you to lie down in green pastures,
and lead you beside still waters.
May God restore your soul.**

**May God lead you in the right paths for the sake
of God's holy name.**

**Even when you walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
may you fear no evil,
for God will be with you.**

**God's rod and staff will comfort and protect you.
God will set a table for you even in the presence of your enemies,
God will anoint your head with oil.
Your cup will overflow.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life,
and may you dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Offering God's Blessings to One Another *Blessings for this Blessed Day!*

Regathering in Song *Circle of Life* (1x) Marty Haugen

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship 283 *Spirit of the Living God* (2x) Iverson

The Call to Worship from the Beatitudes

Come and worship, you who know your need of God,

You of the light of the world!

Come and worship, all who mourn,

You are the light of the world!

Come and worship, all the meek, the gentle, the quiet and the kind,

You are the light of the world!

Come and worship, you who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

You are the light of the world!

Come and worship, you who are merciful and you who seek justice,

You are the light of the world!

All people, God calls us to be the light of the world. Come, claim that call. Let us worship together.

*Hymn

4

Joyful, Joyful (1-3)

Hymn to Joy

(After the hymn, children are invited to the Children's Garden and to learn about God's rainbow for Noah's Ark.)

WE PREPARE

Prayer of Invocation from the United Church of Christ Book of Worship

Eternal One,

Silence from whom our words come;

Questioner from whom our questions arise;

Lover of whom all our loves are hints;

Disturber in whom alone we find our rest;

Mystery in whose depths we find healing and ourselves;

Enfold us now in your presence;

restore to us your peace;

renew us through your power;

and ground us in your grace. Amen.

A Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of God's Grace

*Our Song of Praise

Joyful, Joyful

Hymn to Joy

*Mortals join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began,
Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life!*

WE ENGAGE

Living in Ordinary Time: Listening Beyond the Fear

Una Tormenta en la Mar (A Storm at Sea)

Mateo 14:22-33 (New Testament, p. 16)

Immediately *Jesús* made *los discípulos* (the disciples) get *en el barco* (into the boat) and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed *las multitudes* (the crowds). And after he had dismissed *las multitudes*, he went up *la montaña* (the mountain) by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time *el barco*, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for *el viento* (the wind) was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them *en el lago* (on the lake). But when *los discípulos* saw him walking *en el lago*, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately *Jesús* spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; *no tengan miedo* (do not be afraid)."

Pedro answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you *en el agua* (on the water)." He said, "Ven (Come)." So *Pedro* got out *del barco*, started walking *en el agua*, and came towards *Jesús*. But when he noticed *el fuerte viento* (the strong wind), he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "*¡Señor, sálvame!* (Lord, save me!)" *Jesús* immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got *en el barco*, the wind ceased. And those *en el barco* worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are *el Hijo de Dios* (the Child of God)."

Hymn

488

Be Still, My Soul (1-2)

Katharina von Schlegel/Finlandia

Reflection

Listening Beyond the Fear

Time for Silent Prayer

Musical Response

Sarabande from Suite No. 1 in G Major

J.S. Bach

WE RESPOND

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (*please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer*)

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

A Time of Thanks, Farewell, and Godspeed

Jim and Debbie Maloney

*Closing Hymn 81

God Be with You

Jeremiah Rankin/William G. Tomer

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison (3x)

Ukrainian Orthodox Church

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!

We're glad you've joined us for worship this morning and invite you to join in other ministries and programs of the church. Please go to our website (unitedchurchofsantafe.org) for more information. Again, welcome!

We welcome Youth Cellist Jack Smucker offering special music this morning. The son of Phil and Jessica Smucker and brother of Sasha, Jack has grown up in the United Church and started playing his cello in worship when he was five years old. He starts 8th grade at Rio Grande School this fall.

Also sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold; Jessie Lo, Pianist; and Caleb Omolo and Sasha Smucker, Liturgists. Luis Zapata is the Sunday Aide.

At the end of the service, we will give thanks and wish Godspeed to Debbie and Jim Maloney who are moving to Texas to be closer to family. They have been part of United since 2005. Debbie has served on the Sacred Space and Congregational Care Teams, as well as being an active participant in both the Wednesday Women's Study Group and the Thursday Zoom "Resiliency and Hope" Bible Study. Jim has served as chair of the Personnel Ministry Team and also on the church Council as Moderator-Elect, Moderator, and Emeritus during several years of major transition for United. They will be missed. Please take time after the service to offer your blessing and thanks.

Blessing of Students and Educators

It's hard to believe but public school starts this Tuesday, and other schools start later. At United, we take time to recognize all our students and educators in a variety of settings. Whether you're a teacher, counselor, middle schooler, kindergartener, parent, or any other role in education, please know your church community holds you in prayer throughout the year ahead.

Embark on the Ark! – Children's Ministry this Sunday

The children hear the story of God creating the rainbow after the flood as a reminder of the covenant with God and all creation. Then they get to make their own Skittle Rainbow! All kids and grandkids welcome!

Adult Forum: *Living into Aging* – Today at 11:15 am (after worship)

Aging. It happens to all of us, all throughout our lives, but as we get older, aging can raise many questions and concerns—spiritually as well as physically and other ways. This forum provides an opportunity to reflect and share your own questions and experiences. It will also help us as a church explore how our ministries can help in this important stage of life. All 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!

UNITED CHURCH SUPPORTS HAWAIIAN FIRE RELIEF

The United Church of Santa Fe has many "sister" United Church of Christ congregations throughout Hawai'i, including on Maui and the Big Island, many of which are centuries older than United. Along with homes and businesses, many churches have been destroyed and their members killed or displaced by the recent fires. Other UCC congregations are housing both people and livestock, and pets of their neighbors. United invites your donations (online: unitedchurchofsantafe.org; by check, memo: "Hawai'i Fire Relief") to be sent to the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you.

Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls
Thursdays at 8:00 am via Zoom

Explore Sunday scriptures with Talitha Arnold and members and friends from across Santa Fe and across the country.

COMING UP – SUNDAYS AT UNITED

Newcomer Orientation – Next Sunday, August 20 (11:15 am)

Want to learn more about the United Church of Santa Fe and the wider United Church of Christ? Meet some new people? Come to the Newcomer Orientation in two weeks. We'll share some of the history of both our local congregation and the history of the wider United Church that dates back to the New England Pilgrims and European Reformers and also includes Abolitionists, African American communities, indigenous Hawai'ian churches, and a variety of other histories. All welcome! Please let Talitha Arnold or Discipleship Chair Diane Darby know you'd like to come.

New Members Welcomed – Sunday, August 27 (both services)

We will welcome new members into the United Church of Santa Fe on Sunday, August 27 in both services. If you'd like to join or have questions about membership, please contact Talitha Arnold. Thank you!

Fiesta Sunday – All Church PICNIC! (Sept. 10)

Stay after the 10:00 outdoor service on September 10 for a new way of doing an old-fashioned All Church Picnic. The church provides drinks, chips, and dessert (ice cream or fruit). You bring your own sandwiches, salads, ribs, etc. We'll have tables and plenty of shade. All welcome! (And please let us know you're coming (sign up in the Community Room)—otherwise the staff will have to eat all the leftover ice cream. :-)

Will You Pray for a Child?

Would you be interested in being paired with a child in our congregation and praying for her/him every day? All that is asked of the adult is to remember the child in prayer each day. It's as simple as that! Please sign up in the Community Room. Questions? Please contact Talitha Arnold (505-988-3295). We'll start the program in mid-September. Thanks!

Wednesday Women's Study Group Starts Again in September (6th & 20th, 10:00 am)

All women invited to join in lively discussions of some great books (*The Indigenous People's History of the U.S.*, Dunbar/Ortiz; *Horse*, Geraldine Brooks; *Lessons in Chemistry*, Bonnie Gamus, and others). Mark your calendars and let us know you'd like to join in this September. Barbara MacPhee organizes the group (504-232-6670, macphee.b@gmail.com).

Make United's Welcome a Real Deal!

We want to be a welcoming community every Sunday—we need your help to do that! Sign up today to greet/usher. Thanks!

Summer Drive for the Food Depot

United offers many ways to support The Food Depot. If you have a home garden, add a row and bring extra produce to United. Or bring cans/boxes of vegetables/fruit, pasta, rice; family-size packages of high-protein foods (beans, canned meats, soups); baby foods (powdered formula, cereal, jars); diapers. Monetary donations welcome: check (memo "Food Depot") or online (unitedchurchofsantafe.org). Thank you!

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

Supporting our Diné/Navajo neighbors. Providing relief and resettlement for Afghan, Central American, and Ukrainian refugees. Feeding hungry people in Santa Fe. 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!

Santa Fe Classic Theater and the Santa Fe Botanical Garden Present

William Shakespeare's Comic "Much Ado about Nothing" (through Sunday, August 20)

Boy gets girl, boy loses girl, tears, betrayal, laughter, and a wedding. Laugh your Santa Fe summer away with roses and lavender scenting the night air! United member Jennifer Graves stars in one of the Bard's most beloved plays. Performances at the SF Botanical Garden, 703 Camino Lejo. Tickets: santafeclassictheater.org.

A Prayer for Students and Those Who Care for Them

God of infinite imagination who calls us to love you with heart, soul, and mind, hear our prayers for all students and those who care for them. May they know your presence in classrooms and cafeterias, laboratories and practice rooms, gymnasiums, nurse's offices, studios, and libraries.

We thank you for teachers and others who bring out the best in their students, who stimulate a thirst for learning, and whose love and care can change lives. We pray for students whose lives make learning difficult—who start school hungry or are homeless, who deal with disabilities or the fear of failure. May they know your love is not dependent on grades or tests. Empower us to help all your children have the gift of education and the chance to grow in knowledge and wisdom. Amen.