

A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for the
Joyous Sunday of Lent
March 30, 2025
10:00 A.M.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

For Reflection:

The journey homewards. Coming home. That's what it's all about. The journey to the coming of the God's realm. That's probably the chief difference between the Christian and the secular artist—the purpose of the work, be it story or music or painting, is to further the coming of the kingdom, to make us aware of our status as children of God, and to turn our feet toward home.

Madeleine L'Engle, *Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art*

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

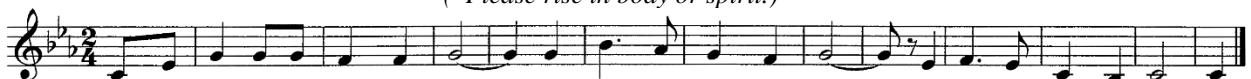
Heimweh
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Edvard Grieg
Martin Luther/arr. Heather Sorenson

*Introit

Donde hay caridad (2x)
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Joaquín Madurga



Don-de hay ca-ri-dad ya-mor, a-llí es-tá el Se-ñor, a-llí es-tá el Se-ñor.
(Where charity and love are, there God is.)

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Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing Those Gifts and Regathering in Song

Donde hay caridad (1x)

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Call to Lent from the Second of Letter of Paul to the Church of Corinth

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to the Holy One, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making the appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Musical Call to Worship

Nada te turbe
(Nothing can trouble.)

Taizé Community

Call to Worship based on the Creation Stories of Genesis (congregation in bold)

In the beginning, God made the world.

Made it and mothered it, shaped it and fathered it,
filled it with seeds and signs of fertility,
filled it with love and its folk with ability.

All that is green, blue, deep, and growing, **God's is the hand that created you.**

All that is tender, firm, fragrant, and curious, **God's is the hand that created you.**

All that crawls, flies, swims, walks, or is motionless, **God's is the hand that created you.**

All that speaks, signs, cries, laughs, or keeps silent, **God's is the hand that created you.**

All that suffers, lacks, limps, or longs for an end, **God's is the hand that created you.**

The world belongs to the Lord.

The earth and all its people are God's.

Let us sing praise to the God of all creation!

*Hymn

558

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder (1-3)

Curtis Beach/In Babilone

WE PREPARE

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty and most gracious God,
whose very nature is to be present in good times and bad;
**in warm days and cold, in wind, rain, and sunny life;
in laughter and in pain, in joy and in despair,
in work and in play, and in all those things that are a joy of life,
open now our hearts and our minds to your creation.**

Hear our prayers of thanksgiving for the beauty of the earth.

Hear our prayers of confession for our failure to care for this world and its peoples.

Hear our prayers of hope for your healing power in our lives and in the lives of all creatures.

Renew our trust in you and help us to follow in your way of love for all people and all creation.

A Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of Forgiveness

*Our Song of Praise

O How Glorious

Curtis Beach/In Babilone

*O how wondrous, O how glorious is your name in every land.
God, whose purpose shines before us, toward the goal that you have planned.
Yours the will our hearts are seeking, conscious of our human need.
Spirit in our spirit speaking, make us yours, O God, indeed!*

(During the song, children are invited to Children's Ministry with Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.)

WE ENGAGE

From the Parables of Jesus (cong. bold)

Luke 15:1-2, 11-24

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them. . . ."

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, '**Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.**' So he divided his property between them."

"A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need."

"So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything."

"But when he came to himself he said, '**How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."**'"

"So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, '**Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.**'"

"But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' "

Hymn 202

O God, How We Have Wandered (1-2)

Kevin Nichols/Passion Chorale

Sermon

Turning Toward Home

Silent Reflection

A Musical Response

From A Place Called Home

Tony Silvestri/Bradley Ellingboe

*We all have a place we can call our home,
No matter where we wander;
Wherever or how far we roam,
We all have a place called home.*

*We all have memories that wait for us there,
Where past and present mingle,
Childhood dreams, and those who care;
We all have memories there.*

*But this home of ours is a fragile place,
And close to the point of peril.*

*If we cross the shadow, we lose the race;
Our home is a fragile place.
We already know what we must do;
Our path to the future is clear:
We must restore the earth anew.
We know what we must do.*

*Now is the time to answer the call,
And live another way;
For the work of one can summon all.
Now go, and answer the call!*

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Prayer of Our Savior

Gracious God, you who are present in the morning, day, and evening,
we thank you for this time of prayer—
for sacred silence in the midst of noise,
for sacred music in the midst of clamor,
for your sacred peace in our lives. *(silence)*

Life-giving God,
you have brought us forth from the womb of your being
and breathed into us the breath of life.
You know us better than we know ourselves.
Turn back the outer layers of our lives
and look beneath the surface to our hidden inner depths.
Help us to be honest with you about our fears and failings.
Give us the faith to trust your healing grace. *(silence)*

Truth-telling God,
you know also the brokenness of this world,
you hear the cries of your children and of creation's suffering.
Help us also hear and to change our lives to love this world as you so love.
(You are invited to lift the names of peoples and places you hold in prayer.)

Compassionate God,
hear all our prayers, spoken and unspoken.
Remind us always there is more grace in you than fear in us,
more wholeness in you than brokenness in us,
more life in you than death in us.
May that grace, healing, and life renew our souls that we might help renew your world.

We pray in the name of the One who showed us
your way of life that overcomes our ways of death
and who taught us to pray to you with boldness, courage, and trust saying:
(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.)

Offering the Gifts God has Given Us

Offertory *Prelude in E Minor* Frédéric Chopin

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Bless our tithes and offerings, O God, returned to you. Multiply and use them for the sake of our neighbors and kindred and your creation. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn *Word of God in All Creation* (insert) Jeffery Rowthorn/Beach Spring

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction *Kyrie Eleison* Ukrainian Orthodox Chant (9th c.)
Kyrie Eleison. Christe Eleison. Kyrie Eleison

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning, and invite you to join in the programs of education, music and service during Lent. Again, welcome!

Sharing worship leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Michelle Schumann, Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; Blanca Surgeon, Liturgist; Elijah Marquez, Media Director, and Frank Wilbanks, Sound Technician. You were greeted by Blanca Surgeon, Linda Churchill, Rosemary Thompson, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata.

Pretty Good Guys All-Church Pancake Breakfast – TODAY!

United's "Pretty Good Guys" rustle up some very good pancakes and invite you to join them for an All-Church Breakfast this morning after worship. All ages, all welcome! (And bring friends, too!)

***Welcoming Immigrants in Santa Fe* With Mayor Alan Webber Sunday, April 6**

Santa Fe is not officially a "sanctuary city," but the city charter affirms that the community is welcoming to all people. What does that mean practically, particularly in light of the current crackdown on immigrants nationwide? For one, Mayor Alan Webber has started up the city's Immigration Committee and also appeared on national news underscoring Santa Fe's commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive community. As our April 6th Forum guest, he'll share his views and ways for faith communities to welcome our neighbors in this time.

Wednesday Women's Study Group (April 2 – 10:00 am)

We begin our discussion of *The Women* by Kristen Hannah. All women welcome! (Cheryl Morton: 515-240-4523, mommorton@gmail.com; Jenn Wynn: 817-219-0707, home@wynne.us)

Midweek Communion in Lent – Wednesdays (12:15 pm to 12:45 pm)

Do you yearn for silence or an opportunity to breathe, pray, replenish? United offers a Lenten Noontime Communion (12:15- 12:45) each Wednesday. All welcome to recharge and renew (through Holy Week, April 16).

Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of Mark – Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MT) on Zoom

In Lent, we conclude the Gospel of Mark with the Holy Week story—God's love and life overcoming fear and death. All welcome! Register/Info: unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Easter Flower Remembrances

To honor or remember a loved one with an Easter Lily, please put a completed "Easter Remembrance" form and donation in Community Room envelope by **Palm Sunday, April 13**. Suggested donation: \$20/lily. Names will be in the Easter Sunday bulletins.



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 (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. (Also at church, please put coffee cups and napkins in compost cans in the Community Room.) Thanks!

United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change (and Climate Disasters)

Mitigate your carbon travel footprint with United's "**Carbon Offset Program**" which supports climate advocacy of *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and hands-on work of *Tree New Mexico*. The math is easy. Flying: donate \$4 for every hour in flight; driving: donate \$4 per 1,000 miles. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

***A Place Called Home* by Bradley Ellingboe and Tony Silvestri New Mexico Premiere Saturday, April 12 – 4:00 pm at Lentic Theater with Orchestra, Soloists and the combined choirs of Coro Lux and the United Church (Panel Discussion at 2:30 pm)**

A Place Called Home is a musical plea for our Earth home, composed by Bradley Ellingboe (United's Director of Music) with lyricist Tony Silvestri. This dramatic cantata premiered in Carnegie Hall in April of 2023. This spring, on Saturday, April 12, the work will have its New Mexico premiere at the Lentic Theater, with the combined choruses of United's Sanctuary Choir and *Coro Lux* (thanks to United's sponsorship in renting the hall and the NM State Arts Council for underwriting the cost of the soloists).

Plan to come—and invite friends—to the Lentic concert on Saturday, April 12, 4:00 pm—and also to the 2:30 Panel Discussion with composer Ellingboe and lyricist Silvestri, along with Environmental Ethicist Larry Rasmussen and Navajo/Diné Psychiatrist Mary Hasbah Roessel, moderated by Rev. Talitha Arnold. (Concert tickets at lentic.org/events/a-place-called-home/)

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!