

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

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

**September 15, 2024**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**For Reflection:**

And a little later on, your friend goes out to the moon. And now he looks back and he sees the earth not as something big, where he can see the beautiful details, but now he sees the earth as a small thing out there. And the contrast between that bright blue and white Christmas tree ornament and the black sky, that infinite universe, really comes through, and the size of it, the significance of it.

It is so small and so fragile and such a precious little spot in that universe that you can block it out with your thumb, and you realize that on that small spot, that little blue and white thing, is everything that means anything to you—all the history and music and poetry and art and death and birth and love, tears, joys, games--all of it on that little spot out there you can cover with your thumb. And you realize from that perspective that you've changed, that there's something new there, that the relationship is no longer what it was.

Russell Schweickart, Apollo Astronaut

**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

From *Enfantines: Melody and Dream*  
*Prayer from Jewish Life, No. 1*

Ernest Bloch  
Ernest Bloch/arr. Jacquelyn Helin

\*Congregational Introit

**Salaam, Salaam**  
*(Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Manal Samir (adp.)



Sa - laam, sa - laam, the peace of God to ev-ery race. Sa - laam, sa - laam, the peace of God in ev-ery place.

2. *Shalom, shalom, the peace of God to every race. Shalom, shalom, the peace of God in every place.*

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

\*Sharing God's Blessings and Regathering in Song

**Salaam, Salaam** (1x)

Manal Samir

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

*Psalm 19*

Jean Slates Hawk

A Psalm from the Hebrew Bible

Psalm 133

*Behold how good and pleasant it is when God's people dwell together in unity.*

*It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down the beard of Aaron,  
running down the collar of his robes.*

*It is like the dew of Hermon which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the Lord ordained blessing, life forevermore.*

An Islamic Call to Prayer: Recitation of the Adhan

*Allah is Most Great. Allah is Most Great.  
I bear witness that there is none worthy of being worshipped except Allah.  
I bear witness that Muhammad is the Apostle of Allah.  
Come to prayer. Come to prayer.  
Come to success. Come to success.  
Allah is the Most Great. Allah is the Most Great.  
There is none worthy of being worshipped except Allah.*

\*Hymn 8

*Praise to the Living God* (1-3)

Curtis Beach/Diademata

**WE PREPARE**

In a Prayer of Invocation (**congregation in bold**)

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.**

In a Time of Silent Prayer

In the Affirmation of Grace

\*Our Song of Praise

*Praise to the Living God*

Lowry/Hanson Place

*Praise to the living God, around, within, above,  
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.  
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife.  
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of Life.*

*(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 Story of Jesus (**congregation bold**)

Mark 7:24-30

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "**Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.**" Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Hymn 316

*We Limit Not the Truth of God* (st. 1 and 3)

George Rawson/Old 22nd

Reflection

*Jesus Learns Who His Neighbor Is*

Silent Reflection

*Blessed be the Lord,  
 my God has heard the voice of my supplication.  
 God is my strength; the Lord is my shield;  
 in God I trust and am helped.  
 My heart exults,  
 and with my song I give thanks unto the Lord.  
 Save your people and bless them, Lord.  
 Shepherd them now and evermore.  
 Blessed. Blessed. Blessed. Blessed.*

**WE RESPOND**

A Prayer for Peace by Rabbi Nachman  
 (citing Leviticus 26:6; Amos 5:24, Isaiah 11:9)

trans. Rabbi Deborah Silver

May it be Your will,  
 Holy One, our God, our ancestors' God,  
 that you erase war and bloodshed from the world  
 and in its place draw down  
 a great and glorious peace  
 so that nation shall not lift up sword against nation  
 neither shall they learn war any more.

Rather, may all the inhabitants of the earth  
 recognize and deeply know  
 this great truth:  
 that we have not come into this world  
 for strife and division  
 nor for hatred and rage,  
 nor provocation and bloodshed.

We have come here only  
 to encounter You,  
 eternally blessed One.

And so,  
 we ask your compassion upon us;  
 raise up, by us, what is written:

*I shall place peace upon the earth  
 and you shall lie down safe and undisturbed  
 and I shall banish evil beasts from the earth  
 and the sword shall not pass through your land,  
 but let justice come in waves like water  
 and righteousness flow like a river,  
 for the earth shall be full  
 of the knowledge of the Holy One  
 as the waters cover the sea.*

So may it be.  
 And we say:  
 Amen.

**WE GO IN PEACE**

\*Hymn 436

*God of Grace and God of Glory* (1-3)

H.E. Fosdick/Cwm Rhondda

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

H.E. Fosdick/Cwm Rhondda

*Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
 Let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.  
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,  
 serving you whom we adore.*

## **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](http://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!

We welcome Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Mr. Noor A'wad as our guests this weekend from Roots/Judur/Shorashim, a Palestinian Israeli grassroots initiative for understanding, non-violence, and transformation in the West Bank. Please see the insert for their bios and also below for information on today's Forum and tomorrow's community-wide presentation.

Sharing worship leadership are Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Dr. Jacquelyn Helin, Guest Pianist; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; the Sanctuary Choir; Rebecca Ray, Oboist; Steve Hamilton, Liturgist; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez. You were greeted by Rosemary Thompson, Blanca Surgeon, Tom Stewart, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata.

### **Children's Ministry**

Guided by Weston Puglisi, Andrea Gonzales, and Maria Navarette, children are invited to check out the Children's Garden, harvest produce for Santa Fe Shelters and then explore God's psalms of praise. They can also stay with their parents in the Pray-ground at the back of the Sanctuary.

### ***Hassidic Texts of Passionate Pluralism – Orthodox Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger of Roots***

#### **Adult Forum – Today after the service (11:15 am)**

Guided by Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, we'll explore Jewish Hasidic texts—about pluralism and what may be called "the humility of the journey"—that give us a wonderful theoretical framework for how to hold the stick from both ends at the same time – to be passionately dedicated to what you believe in and at the same time to listen to, respect, learn from, and even accept opposing truths. These texts provide some of the Jewish theological foundations for the work of *Roots* that tries to find room in our hearts for both the Jewish and the Palestinian.

#### ***Two Truths in One Heart, Two Peoples in One Land***

#### **Roots Presentation 7:00 pm tomorrow evening – Monday, September 16 – at United**

Tomorrow evening at 7:00 pm, Rabbi Schlesinger and Mr. A'wad offer a community-wide presentation on the work and witness of *Roots* in fostering understanding, non-violence, and transformation. **Mandatory pre-registration by tomorrow morning at 9:00 am: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org/rootspresentation](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org/rootspresentation).**

### **HELP OUR FELLOWSHIP TIME BE ECO-FRIENDLY**

The paper goods we use for the fellowship time are compostable, so when you're done, please put them in the compost bin in the Community Room. Reunity Resources turns them into great compost. Thanks!

### ***Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls – Thursday Mornings (8:00 am) via Zoom***

Explore *The Gospel of Mark* with Talitha Arnold and United members and friends across the country. Sign up at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com) or speak with Talitha for more information.

### **Award-winning Author Anne Hillerman – THIS Wednesday, September 18 (10:00 am)**

#### **Wednesday Women's Study Group Invite YOU to join in!**

The Wednesday Women's Study Group is reading Anne Hillerman's latest Manuelito-Leaphorn-Chee mystery, *Lost Birds*, this fall. Thanks to Anne's friendship with Talitha Arnold, she is coming to United on Wednesday, Sept. 18. and the Study Group invites the United community to join in the conversation and book signing. All welcome!

### **Santa Fe River Cleanup – This Saturday, September 21 (8:30-10:00 am) – NEW DATE!**

Join us to care for our corner of Creation. We'll meet where Closson St. ends at the river. United provides donuts, coffee, and trash bags. You bring a hat, sunscreen, and gloves. Please sign up in the Community Room, call 505-988-3295 or email [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com). All Creation thanks you!

### **WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS – Sunday, September 29**

On the last Sunday of September, we welcome new members into the United Church of Santa Fe. If you are interested in "officially" joining United, please speak with Rev. Talitha Arnold or Moderator Sarah Sawtell. Thank you!

### **Summer Food (and Finance) Drive for the Food Depot – LAST WEEK!**

United offers many ways to support The Food Depot. Bring produce from your own garden or non-perishable food items: canned vegetables/fruit, pasta, rice, etc. Monetary donations welcome: online at [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org) or check (memo "Food Depot"). Deadline for donations is this Sunday, September 22. Thank you!

## **Welcome to Our Guests from Roots/Judur/Shorashim**

A Palestinian Israeli Grassroots Initiative for Understanding, Non-violence, and Transformation

### **Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger**

**Hanan Schlesinger** is an Orthodox Israeli rabbi and teacher who has been profoundly transformed by his encounters with Palestinians and the Palestinian People since late 2013. As he never tires of saying, he is now healing from the hubris of exclusivity with which he was afflicted all of his adult life. Today he knows that there are two Peoples in the Holy Land, and that each has their own story. Indeed the Land itself bears two identities – the Land of Israel is also the Land of Palestine.

Originally hailing from New York, Rav Hanan immigrated to Israel on his own at the age of 20 and has lived in Alon Shvut, Gush Etzion, for over 40 years. His family background is Reform, but already at the end of high school he began delving into observant Judaism. Following his B.A., he spent over 10 years in advanced Jewish study. The first part of his professional career was devoted to teaching Jewish studies to young adults, primarily in colleges of Jewish studies and seminaries in the Jerusalem area. Starting in 2005, he served the Dallas Jewish community for eight years, during which he became involved in interfaith work, first with Christians and then with Muslims. Although always drawn to pluralism and deeply empathic for the other, Rav. Hanan never met a Palestinian as an equal until he returned from Dallas to Israel in 2013. The meetings that began then – largely inspired by his interfaith experience in Dallas – have become far more meaningful than he could ever have imagined.

In early 2014, Ali Abu Awwad and an Israeli partner Shaul Judelman, together with Rav Hanan and other Israelis and Palestinians, founded [Roots/Judur/Shorashim](#) on a piece of land owned by the Awaad family in the heart of Gush Etzion and abutting the Palestinian town of Beit Umar. This location is one of the rare places that both Palestinians and Israelis can access without special government permits, thus facilitating grassroots, unmediated get-togethers and deep conversations between people from the two sides.

Rav Hanan currently serves as its Director of International Relations for Roots. He and his Israeli-born wife Ayala reside in Alon Shvut, Israel, and have four grown children and eleven grandchildren.

### **Noor A'wad**

Noor's family moved from Amman, Jordan to Beit Sahour, a Palestinian town west of Bethlehem, following the signing of the Oslo Accords. There, he began thinking about his identity as a Palestinian refugee. While studying to become a tour guide, Noor travelled to Israel and for the first time saw Israelis beyond the frame of "occupying soldiers." In 2012, Noor was licensed by the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism. After meeting Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad in 2016, Noor joined Roots, where he currently organizes joint Palestinian-Israeli activities and speaks to visiting groups about his personal experiences living through the conflict as a Palestinian who has seen much tragedy, and in such conditions is motivated to work toward a political solution. Noor resides in Bethlehem today, where he guides English-speakers on geopolitical tours of the region.