

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
for the
Second Sunday of Lent
March 1, 2026
10:00 A.M.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

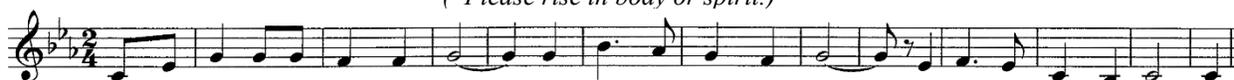
Sinfonia in D Major
Be Thou My Vision

J.S. Bach
Irish Melody/arr. David Nevue

*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.

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Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing Those Gifts and Regathering in Song

Donde hay caridad (1x)

Joaquín Madurga

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Call to Lent from the Psalms

Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in thee I trust; make me to know thy ways. O Lord, teach me thy paths.

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me,

for thou art the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of thy mercy, O Lord, and of thy steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

According to your steadfast love remember me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord!

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.

Choral Call to Worship

Breathe on Me

Edwin Hatch/Robert Jackson

The Call to Worship (congregation bold)

We have gathered in the presence of God our Creator, who sets before us the ways of life and death.

We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ, who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship that we may know its joy.

We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

In our living and in our dying, we belong to God. In the shadow of God's wings, we sing for joy.

Let us worship God.

*Hymn

352

My God, Accept My Heart This Day

Matthew Bridges/St. Stephen

WE PREPARE

*A Prayer of Invocation (unison)

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 Grace

*Song of Praise

Laudate omnes gentes

Jacques Berthier/Taizé

*Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum.
Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum!*

*Sing praises, all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord.
Sing praises, all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord!*

(As adults and older youth are seated, our younger ones through 5th grade go to Kids United with Family Minister Dana Bender, Tracy Church, Maria Navarette, and Destiny Muñoz. They return for Communion for all are welcome at the table.)

WE ENGAGE

Nicodemus Comes to Jesus (John 3:1-10)
New Revised Standard English Version

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a religious leader of the people. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the realm of God without being born from above."

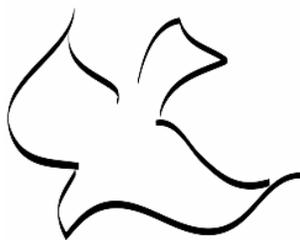
Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered,

"Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the realm of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'

"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? . . .

"For God so loved the world that God gave the Chosen One, so that everyone who believes in Christ may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Christ into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Christ."



Hymn 283

Spirit of the Living God (2x)
(2nd time – acapella)

Daniel Iverson

Sermon

A Time of Silent Reflection

Called to New Birth

A Musical Response 499

In All Our Living
(1st English, 1st Spanish)

Mexican Folk

Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes

John Rutter

Prayer of Dedication

WE RECEIVE AND RESPOND

Sharing the Gift of Communion

Remembering the Story

Welcoming One Another and Giving Thanks to God

Friends and kindred, this is the joyful feast of the people of God. At this table, God invites us to receive new life and abundant love.

We come to be renewed by God's spirit and transformed by God's love.

Out of love, God called the world into being. Out of love, God formed us from the dust of the earth.

**And with love, God transforms ordinary bread, a common cup,
and our lives into gifts of new life.**

Therefore let us keep this feast. Let us welcome and love one another, as God welcomes and loves us.

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

The Sharing of *El Pan y La Copa*

(As your section is called, please come forward to receive the bread or a non-gluten wafer. Then dip the bread into the chalice (grape juice) or take one of the individual cups and return to your seat by the next aisle. All are welcome!)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

We thank you, God, for the gifts of life we have received from this table and this time of worship. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and for your world. Empowered by your spirit, fed by your love, lead us deeper into the journey of Lent, trusting that you will guide us in your ways of life—for us and all creation. Amen.

*Hymn

582

O God of Earth and Altar

Gilbert K. Chesterton/Llangloffan

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie eleison

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Anointing and Prayers for Healing

After the *Kyrie eleison*, you are invited to leave quietly or to remain in the Sanctuary for a time of anointing and prayers for healing. As you choose, please come forward for an individual anointing and laying on hands. You're also invited to simply remain seated for a time of personal prayer.

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. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Children through the 5th grade begin the service with the congregation, then go to *Kids United* to learn about and explore the Nicodemus story with Family Minister Dana Bender and Ministry Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.

Sharing worship leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Dana Bender, Family Minister; Bruce Turnquist, Liturgist; Michelle Schumann, Pianist/Director of Music; Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; and Elijah Marquez, Media Director, with Audio Volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Ministers of Hospitality Don Duncan, Rosemary Thompson, Louise Cavatta, Pam Hyde, and Karen Wilbanks; and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

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

Do you yearn for silence or an opportunity to breathe, pray, replenish? Wednesday during Lent, United offers a **Lenten Noontime Communion (12:15- 12:45)**. All welcome to recharge and renew (through Holy Week: April 1).

Easter Flower Remembrances

Is there someone you'd like to honor or remember with the donation of a lily displayed at United Church this Easter? Please fill out the form in the Community Room and leave it with your donation in the envelope or the offering plate by **Sunday, March 22**. Suggested donation is \$20 per lily. The names will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletins.

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

“Love in Action” Children’s Summer Arts Camp

In the Education Wing, Family Minister Dana Bender and others discuss plans for this summer’s “Love in Action” Arts Camp (June 15-19).

Outgrow – 2026 Lenten Daily Devotional Booklets in Community Room

Take a copy of the Lenten Daily Devotional Booklet, published by the United Church of Christ, featuring national UCC leaders (including Talitha Arnold). Join with others in Lent’s journey to Easter’s new life.

Other Study Opportunities

Christianity’s American Fate: How Religion Became More Conservative and Society More Secular

Wednesday Women’s Study Group, March 4 – 10:00 am

David Hollinger is Professor of History at the University of California Berkeley. He provides the religious and secular background for what’s happening in our country now. All women welcome! (Jenn Wynne, home@wynnes.us; Cheryl Morton, mommorton@gmail.com)

The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong **Wednesdays in Lent (5:30-6:45 pm)** **March 4 through March 25**

Karen Gonzales’ *The God Who Sees* is a short book that combines the author’s story of immigrating from Guatemala to the U.S. as child with stories of Biblical immigrants and refugees (Ruth and Naomi, Abraham, Jesus, etc.). All welcome. Signup sheet and copies of the book in Community Room.

Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of John

Thursday 8:00 am (MT) on Zoom

This Zoom study started during the pandemic. Six years later, we still need the “Resiliency and Hope” of our Biblical faith. In Lent, we’re exploring the challenging and sometimes confusing Gospel of John. All welcome! Register/Info: unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Next Sunday – March 8

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Please remember to set your clock ahead one hour this Saturday evening. Thanks!

Prayer Child Ministry Commissioning Service

Here at United, each child and youth has a Prayer Child “pray-er,” who has volunteered to hold that child in daily prayer. Next Sunday, we bless the “pray-ers” and our children and youth at the beginning of the 10:00 service. After the service there will be opportunity for the children and youth to meet their “pray-ers.”

The Meaning of Membership – Sunday Forum

Interested in learning more about the United Church of Santa Fe? Questions about what it means to be a member? Come to the Sunday Forum in two weeks (March 8) with questions and wonderings. Participating in the Forum doesn’t mean a commitment to join—it’s simply a time to learn more and meet new people. Please sign up in the Community Room or email us (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com). Thanks!

New Members Welcomed – Joyous Sunday of Lent – March 15

We’ll receive new members into the United Church community on the Joyous Sunday of Lent (March 15). If you’re interested in joining, please speak with Talitha Arnold (505-988-3295). Thanks! (If the date doesn’t work for you, please let her know that, too. Thanks.)

Donations for Santa Fe Kids’ School Supplies

The United Church of Santa Fe is a founding partner of the new Santa Fe Faith Coalition for Immigration. Through March, United invites your donations for two Santa Fe organizations that support children’s education. Please use Community Room bins for the 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!

Food Depot’s “School Pantry Food Drive”

Share your abundance with God’s hungry children in our public schools. Santa Fe’s Food Depot has “Pantry Rooms” in local schools for kids and parents to stock up for weekends (when there’s no school breakfast or lunch). Bring individually wrapped healthy snacks (granola bars, protein bars, etc.); beef or turkey jerky; or ready-to-eat protein meals that can be micro-waved (e.g., Rice-a-Roni, tuna fish kits, etc.) for kids to eat at home. (The need for such food is greater than ever since, because of ICE raids, many immigrant families are afraid to go grocery shopping.) Thank you!

Extend United’s Welcome as a “Minister of Hospitality”

Come at 9:30 for the 10:00 service and be the first to welcome people to United. It’s simple—and central to who we are as a church community. Sign up today or contact Discipleship Development chair Diane Darby (816-260-0127). Thanks!

Immigration Programs this Monday

Santa Fe Faith Coalition’s Immigration Forum

**5:30 pm – St. John’s Methodist
with reps from Contigo and Adelante**

ICE’S IMPACT ON SANTA FE KIDS AND FAMILIES 6:00 pm on KSFR 101.1 FM

Rev. Talitha Arnold interviews reps from SF Communities in Schools on what ICE raids around the country are doing to Santa Fe’s children and youth. (rebroadcast on Wednesday, also available online at KSFR.org (archives).