

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

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ**

**September 20, 2026
10:00 A.M.**

For Reflection:

When the cross looms and evil stands tall we remember:
God is courage in destruction's wake.
God is love that sets the captives free.
God is solidarity in the midst of struggle.
God is justice that brings cruelty to an end.
Our hope and strength does not mirror systems of dominance.
Salvation is this: God within us, God among us.

Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad
Lutheran Pastor and Professor Emerita, Union Seminary

God is already here.

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

*Allemande in G Major
Worthy Is the Lamb*

J.S. Bach
Darlene Zschech

*Introit

Come All You People

Alexander Gondo/Uyai Mose

***Come all you people, come and praise your Maker, come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker. Come now and worship the Lord.***

Come all you people, come and praise the Most High . . .

Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

Breathing in and Sharing God's Gifts *Blessings for this Blessed Day!*

Sharing God's Peace and Regathering ***Come All You People*** (vs. 1) Alexander Gondo/Uyai Mose

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship *Take My Life and Let It Be* Kevin A. Memley

A Call to Worship from Psalm 145 (congregation in bold)

We will extol you, our God and Ruler
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day we will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great are you, O Lord and greatly to be praised;
your greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall extol your works to another
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works we will meditate.

**Come, people, celebrate God's abundant goodness
and sing joyfully of God's grace.**

*Hymn

277

Holy, Holy, Holy (1-3)

Reginald Heber/Nicaea

WE PREPARE

*In a Prayer of Invocation (cong. bold)

We praise you, O God, that by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have delivered us from the power of death, making us alive to serve you. Free us from pride of self that we may live in community with one another and with all your people. Free us from fear of principalities and powers of this world that we may live and speak with courage, guided by your Spirit. Keep us rooted and grounded in your love, and fill us with the power of your Spirit. Be glorified in our life together that all people might see your love and your hope in their lives. Amen.

*A Time of Silent Prayer

*The Affirmation of God's Presence and Grace

*Our Song of Praise

Holy, Holy, Holy

Reginald Heber/Nicaea

***Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!***

*Blessing of the Children

WE ENGAGE

Keeping the Faith When Caesar is God

From a Letter to a (somewhat) New Church

Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For God has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for Christ as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Hymn 41

I Thank You, Jesus

Kenneth Morris

Sermon

Worthy of the Gift

Silent Reflection

Musical Response

Hope Lingers On

Lisa Schneckenburger/arr. Andrea Ramsey

WE RESPOND AND RECEIVE

Offering Our Prayers and the Lord's Prayer *(Please pray any version.)*

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (back cover)

Hyfrydol

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

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. We hope you'll also join in the fellowship time after the service. If you're visiting today, we're glad you're here! Please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Director of Music/Pianist; the United Choir directed by John Tiranno; Dana Bender, Family Ministry Director; Steve Hamilton, Liturgist; Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator, and audio volunteer Joe Jones. You were welcomed by Dona Cook, Dana Hollifield, Blanca Surgeon, Pam Hyde, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

Children and Youth Today

- Nursery care for **infants and toddlers** (offered by Maria Navarette) and a time of songs, prayers, and stories for **Pre-K's and Kinders** (led by Tracy Church) is in the Nurture Center Sunday mornings, starting at 9:45.
- Following the "Song of Praise and Blessing of Children," **elementary-age children** are invited to ***Kids United*** to tend the Children's Garden, sing, and continue a unit called "Blessing and Letting Go."

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. It's a great way to meet new people and make new friends. Thanks!

Newcomer Orientation—Today – 11:15 am

Like to learn more about the United Church of Santa Fe? Explore where you are on the journey of life and faith? You're invited to the Newcomers Orientation today after the service. Attending an Orientation isn't a commitment to join, but an opportunity to learn more about the church.

The Week Ahead

Memorial Service for Jim Dorris – Tomorrow, 2:00 pm

You are invited to the Memorial Service tomorrow to give thanks for the life of United member Jim Dorris and commit his soul to God's care and light. Please keep his wife Kris and their family in prayer. Thank you.

Church Council Meeting – Monday, 5:15 pm

Books That Didn't Make It into the Bible – Pretty Good Guys

Wednesday, Sept. 23 (10:30 am – Noon)

Not all Gospels made it into the Bible. What were they? What did they say? And why weren't they included? Join these lively biweekly discussions.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals – Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and sings in the 10:00 service Sunday (9:00 rehearsal). All welcome! Please contact Music Director Michelle Schumann (unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com).

Forgiveness, Hope and Resilience – Zoom Bible Study Group

Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:00 am (MDT)

We're exploring what Jesus said about forgiveness. All welcome. To register, email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Memorial Service for Rick Grimes – Saturday, September 26 – 10:00 am

A service to give thanks for the life of Rick Grimes and commit his soul to God's care and light will be next Saturday at 10:00 am. Rick was a member of the United Church of Santa Fe for several years before moving to Colorado. If you can help usher and greet for the service, please let Talitha know—and please keep Rick's family in your prayers in this time. Thank you.

Next Sunday at United (September 27)

New Members Welcomed

We welcome new members next Sunday both services. If you're interested in joining or would like more information, please let Talitha Arnold or Diane Darby know. Thanks!

Youth Field Trip to New Mexico Wildlife Center

We will leave shortly after the 10:00 service begins and return at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 for children under 18. See Dana Bender for details and to reserve a spot!

How Does United Work?—Sunday Forum – 11:15

Our church is active in a huge variety of fields, both inside and outside the church walls. It's all accomplished with the broad involvement of its members, friends, and staff. But how are these efforts coordinated and completed? This Sunday, you're invited to "lift the hood" on the United Church. What are the Ministry Teams and other essential groups that make up United's multiple ministries? How do things get funded? What's our volunteer strength—and what's needed? Explore and learn together "How United Works!"

The Love that Moves the Sun and All Stars | October 4 – St. Francis Pet Blessing Sunday

“All praise be Yours through Brother Sun, Sister Moon,” proclaimed Francis of Assisi. He echoed the long-ago Psalmist who praised the Creator for creating everything from rocks and mountains to the rock badgers to live there. Filling our lives with praise for the Creator is good way to deal with idols. So too is joining in our annual Pet Blessing in both services, whether or not we have a four-legged friend.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing spir - it In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all thy life re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less let us be;



Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
Let us all in thee in - her - it, Let us find thy prom - ised rest;
Sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, Nev - er more thy tem - ples leave.
Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion; Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heav'n we take our place,



Vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at iib - er - ty.
Pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy pre - cious love.
Till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

