

A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for
THE 13th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

August 27, 2023
10:00 A.M.

God is already here.

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

Sicilienne

Fritz Kreisler

*Introit

Come All You People

Alexander Gondo

(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

***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. . . .

Words and Music - ©1994 Iona Community & WGRG. Used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-711427

Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

Breathing in God's Gifts of Peace, Hope, and Love

Sharing God's Peace and Regathering

Come All You People (1st stanza)

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

496

Ekolu Mea Nui

Robert Nawahine

(Choir sings 1st stanza, then repeats with congregation joining in.)

Call to Worship (**congregation in bold**)

People of God, look around and see. Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

See the faces of those we know and love—neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers—a community of kindred hearts.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

See the faces of those we hardly know—strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

See all the images of God assembled here. In me, in you, in each of us, God's spirit shines for all to see.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

Come and see God in all the people of God. Let us worship together.

*Hymn

12

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Isaac Watts/Ellacombe

(After the hymn, children are invited to the Children's Garden and to "Embark on the Ark.")

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation from the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

God of all creation, you call the worlds into being, create all persons in your own image, and set before each of us the ways of life and death. We give you thanks for that creation and for our lives. Forgive us, Gracious God, for the times we misuse your gifts, the times we turn from your ways and wander into aimlessness and sin. Bestow upon us your Holy Spirit once again. Empower us to accept the cost and joys of your discipleship. And remind us of your promise to all who trust you – forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

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

*Our Song of Praise

From All That Dwell below the Skies

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung! Let God the Spirit free each tongue!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The Receiving of New Members

Words of Welcome from the United Church of Christ *Book of Worship*

By your baptism, you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith, which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Four Questions of the Candidates

- Affirmation of Baptismal Vows
- Promise to choose God's way of life over the world's ways of death
- Commitment to personal discipleship and growth in faith
- Commitment to the covenantal community

*Questions of the Congregation

You have heard the affirmation of these people. Will you now welcome them into the common life of this church? Will you promise them your friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and ministry of this community of faith?

We promise with the help of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in that knowledge and love of God and be witness of Jesus' ways of hope and justice in our world.

*Sharing the Covenant of the United Church of Santa Fe

**In the Lord's name we gather together here in Santa Fe
to worship and grow in the Christian tradition,
to minister in love to all persons,
to strive for justice and peace,
to respond to God's word.**

**We celebrate the heritage of Santa Fe and give
ourselves to its challenges and opportunities.**

**We endeavor to live in harmony with all creation
as stewards of the earth.**

**We share in the life and mission of the United Church of Christ
and of Christians everywhere.**

**To these purposes we unite and covenant with God and one another,
watchful for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

*A Prayer of Blessing and Laying On of Hands

*Singing and Signing the Covenant

471

What a Covenant

Elisha A. Hoffman/Leaning

WE ENGAGE

From the History of the Hebrews

Exodus 1:8-22

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives revered God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong.

From the Christian Gospels

Matthew 16:13-18a

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! . . . And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church."

Hymn 354

God, When I Came into This Life (1-3)

Fred Kaan/Land of Rest

Sermon

*Living in Ordinary Time:
Ordinary People, Extraordinary Stories*

A Time of Silent Reflection

A Musical Response

I Love to Tell the Story

Bradley Ellingboe

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Prayer of Our Savior

(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.)

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn

436

God of Grace and God of Glory (1-3, 5)

Harry Emerson Fosdick/Cwm Rhondda

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison (3x)

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant



Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory!

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!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Dr. Jessie Lo, Pianist; Quiara Cortez, Cantor; Sarah Sawtell, Moderator; the Drop-in Choir; Jessica Smucker, Violin; Jennifer Graves and Bruce Turnquist, Liturgists; Elijah Marquez, Social Media Coordinator; and the Church Council. You were welcomed by Diane Darby, Louise Cavatta, and Tom Stewart. Luis Zapata is the Sunday Aide.

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth (Betty) Bordner by her husband Ken and their family who are gathered with us today in worship.

We give thanks for the new members who are “owning” the Covenant” and joining the United Church of Santa Fe this morning (10:00 Service: Mitchell Barker, Alfred (Al) Grady, Margaret (Margy) Maira, Albert Natonabah, Melissa Salazar and Steven Menzies; 8:30: Seana Flanagan and Iana Mason)

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

The children continue their journey with Noah (aka Caleb Omolo) making a crepe paper streamer rainbow to share with the congregation and banana arks to eat (for the kids!).

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 HAWAI’IAN 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. Their homes, businesses, and churches have been destroyed and their members perished. Other UCC congregations are housing both people and animals 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...

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals Begin Wednesday, Sept. 6, 7:00 pm

The Sanctuary Choir resumes its normal rehearsal schedule Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 pm and begins singing in the 10:00 service Sunday, September 10 with warmup at 9:00 am. Want to know more about participating in choir? Contact Director of Music Brad Ellingboe: unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com.

All Church Burrito Brunch!

Fiesta Labor Day Sunday – September 10

What better way to celebrate Fiesta Sunday than a Burrito Brunch with your church community? Stay after the 10:00 service and share the fellowship, along with burritos, fruit, and dessert! Sign up today!

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!

From Aging to “Sage-ing” – Study Group Forming

Following the forum on *Living into Aging*, a number of people expressed interest in starting study groups to continue the conversations. If you’re one of them, please let Talitha Arnold know of your interest or sign up in the Community Room.

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

If you have a home garden, 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!

United Church’s Immigration and Refugee Task Force Welcomes You!

We engage our United community in advocacy, education, policy work, and direct support for refugees and immigrants around the world, at the U.S./Mexico border, and in Santa Fe. The commitment is a monthly meeting (2nd Tuesday), plus attending Immigration and Refugee Forums and/or sponsored events (Advocacy Day, United We Run, etc.). Interested? Please contact Avril Ekstrand (avrilekstrand@yahoo.com, 505-490-8164).

Wednesday Women’s Study Group Starts Wednesday after Labor Day (Sept. 6, 10:00 am)

All women welcome. Pick up book schedule in Community Room or contact Barbara MacPhee (macphee.b@gmail.com).

Rev. Talitha Arnold is away from this Saturday, Sept. 2, through Wednesday morning, Sept. 6. If pastoral need arises, please call the church office (505-988-3295) or the Caregiver on Call John Shaffer (814-336-9353).