

**A Service of the Word  
for  
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost and Father's Day  
June 16, 2024 – 10:00 A.M.**

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

**For Reflection:**

*I have persistence in my DNA.  
There's absolutely nothing that I start that I don't want to finish.  
I gotta finish this.*

Ms. Opal Lee, "Grandmother of Juneteenth" who, at age 89, started walking 2.5 miles every day to advocate for the establishment of a federal holiday for Juneteenth. 2.5 was the number of years it took for word of "The Emancipation Proclamation" to reach Texas in June 1865. Ms. Lee is now 95 and still walking.

**WE GATHER**

*(May the first note of the Prelude be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship.)*

Gathering Music                      *You Raise Me Up*                      Rolf Lovland & Brendan Graham/arr. Larry Shackley

\*Introit                                      *Circle of Life* (2x)                                      Marty Haugen  
*(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

*One great circle of life, living circle of love, plants and trees, seas and rivers, and the blessed sky above,  
Creatures great, creatures small, one the web that weaves us all, in the circle of life.*

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Welcome and Breathing in God's Spirit of Peace, Hope, and Love

Offering God's Blessings to One Another                      *Blessings for this Blessed Day!*

Regathering and Breathing in God's Gifts Again                      *Circle of Life* (1x)                                      Marty Haugen

Musical Call to Worship      41                                      *I Thank You, Jesus*                                      Kenneth Morris

The Call to Worship (congregation bold)

As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,

**so God seeks and saves the lost.**

Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,

**so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.**

As a father welcomes a returning wayward son,

**so God welcomes us, and lets the past be past.**

Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received.

**May we receive, welcome, and give thanks for one another and for the One who gives us  
life together.**

Let us sing our praise to God!

\*Hymn                      28                                      *For the Beauty of the Earth* (1-3)                                      Follitt Pierpont/Dix

**WE PREPARE**

A Prayer of Invocation

Creator God, we give you thanks for all those who parent, love, and shape us.

**Thank you, God, for those who love us.**

Sustainer and Redeemer God, we thank you for those who support and challenge us, who sustain us and make us strong, and who hold us accountable to you and to ourselves.

**Thank you, God, for those who challenge us.**

Infinitely imaginative God, we thank you for all the role models in our lives, for those who are recorded in the books of history and those who are part of our individual stories.

**Thank you, God, for those who teach us and shape us.**

Father-Mother God, known and unknown, supporter and challenger, history maker and quiet encourager, hear our prayers of thanks for all the people through whom your love and strength come to us.

**Use our lives to offer your wisdom, courage, and love to others. Amen.**

A Time of Silence and Words of Assurance

\*Hymn of Praise

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Miriam Therese Winter/Dix

*For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude.  
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed.  
God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*(As adults and older youth are seated, children and younger youth are invited to Children's Garden and then to decorate cookies.)*

**WE ENGAGE**

From the Story of Jesse and His Sons

I Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons. . . . I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. . . . And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, Samuel looked on Eliab, the eldest son, and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, . . . for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Hymn 354

*God, When I Came into This Life* (1-4)

Fred Kaan/Land of Rest

Sermon

*Look on the Heart*

A Time of Silent Reflection

A Musical Response

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Thomas Chisholm/Faithfulness

**WE RESPOND**

Offering Ourselves in Prayer

O God, father, mother, parent of us all, we thank you for your steadfast love for us and for this world. You are the foundation of our lives, the source of all hope, all strength, all courage, all life.

**Steadfast God, hear our prayer.**

*(Silence)*

You who inspired men and women down through the ages to "look on the heart" of your people, we give thanks for all those—be they parents, grandparents, or those who have been like parents to us—who have looked on *our* hearts and seen your promise and your possibilities at work in us.

**Steadfast God, hear our prayer.**

*(Silence)*

We pray for parents whose children are grown, as they continue to love and care for them.

**Steadfast God, hear our prayer.**

*(Silence)*

We pray for single parents, for LGBTQ+ parents, for those who are co-parenting, and for all who strive to offer the best for their children even when challenges and barriers get in the way.

**Steadfast God, hear our prayer.**

*(Silence)*

We pray for parents and all who have lost their children to violence, illness, or accidents, for those whose children are imprisoned, and for parents and children estranged from one another. Hold them in their grief, be with them in their pain. May they know you are with them all, wherever they may be.

**Steadfast God, hear our prayer.**

*(Silence)*

We pray for fathers and mothers, grandparents, aunts and uncles around the world who live in the shadow of violence and poverty yet strive to create a loving home for young and old alike. We pray for refugees and immigrants who have fled war and oppression and now must create a home in strange and new lands.

**Steadfast God, hear our prayer.**

*(Silence)*

We pray for governments and leaders in all places to have the courage to create policies and programs to support and help parents, teachers, and all entrusted with the sacred work of caring for your children.

**Steadfast God, hear our prayer.**

*(Silence)*

Steadfast God of all people, all families, all children—whatever our role in your human family, may you instill in all your vision to see others as beloved children of a loving God.

**Steadfast God, hear our prayer.**

*(Silence)*

We lift these prayers to you and join as one voice to offer the prayer that Jesus, Child of Bethlehem, taught us to share with boldness, courage, and most of all, trust, saying . . .

*(Please pray a version of the Lord's prayer familiar to you.)*

## WE GO OUT IN PEACE

\*Closing Hymn

*Creating God*

Jeffrey Rowthorn/Truro

1. Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -  
2. Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now op -  
3. In dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - ily  
signs of fur - thest space; Let sun and moon and  
pressed for creed or race; Let peace, de - scend - ing  
of a bil - lion names; Let ev - 'ry life be  
stars and light and what lies hid - den praise your might.  
as the dove, an - nounce on earth your heal - ing love.  
touched by grace un - til we praise you face to face.

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

*Kyrie Eleison* (3x)

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

(offered in support of all refugee parents)

*Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

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## WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!

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!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Guest Pianist Jacquelyn Helin, D.M.A., Larry Rasmussen and Tom Stewart Liturgists; and Elijah Marquez, Social Media Coordinator, with assistance from volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Blanca Surgeon, Bruce and Char Cebell, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata.

Steinway Artist Jacquelyn Helin was Music Director at United for 17 years. She retired in 2022 to focus on playing concerts, traveling with her husband, and climbing mountains. Her sold-out spring Resenan lecture-recital on Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* will be repeated this fall on September 26, Gershwin's birthday.

We also welcome Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Randell McGee, baritone, who is singing in three operas this summer (*La Traviata*, *The Righteous*, and *Der Rosenkavalier*). A native of St. Louis, Mr. McGee has sung numerous roles with the St. Louis Opera, including in the world premiere of Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, as well as singing with the Cincinnati Opera and competing in the Met Auditions. We are blessed to have him bless us in worship this morning.

## **CHILDREN DECORATE COOKIES FOR OUR FIRESTATION NEIGHBORS**

During the service, children and youth are invited first to check out the Food Depot Garden and then decorate cookies to take to the Fire Station (and maybe share some with the guys in the congregation in honor of Father's Day).

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

Please join in the time for fellowship, coffee, and snacks after today's service. And when you're done, please put used cups and napkins in the compost bin in the Community Room. Thanks to Reunity Resources, they'll be turned into great compost!

### **Sunday Forums This Summer:**

*What's Ahead?* – *Santa Fe Today and Santa Fe Tomorrow*  
**Julie Ann Grimm, Santa Fe Journalist**  
**Today (11:15 am)**

As we look to the future of our church, it's important to look to the future of the wider Santa Fe community. In our summer Forums, we welcome a variety of community leaders. Journalist Julie Ann Grimm is the guest speaker today. Julie Ann is also the former Editor/Publisher of the Santa Fe Reporter and writer for The New Mexican. Join in and invite friends!

### **Talitha Arnold on KSFR's "The Forum"**

**Tomorrow (Monday, June 17) at 6:00 pm – 101.1 FM**  
Talitha is a regular panelist on KSFR's "The Forum," airing Monday evenings. To quote KSFR, the Forum is "where prominent locals discuss important issues of the day in a hard-hitting but civilized manner." Tune in!

### **Love Kids? Love Fun?**

So volunteer one Sunday this summer to help with Children's Ministry! We'll provide the plans—you just need to sign up and show up. Let Karen Wilbanks or Talitha Arnold know you can help! Sign up in the Community Room.

## **SANTA FE PRIDE PARADE – SATURDAY, JUNE 29 – SIGN UP TODAY!**

United Church is marching in the **31st Annual Pride Parade!** Meet in the PERA parking lot (corner of Old Santa Fe Trail and Paseo de Peralta) by 10:15 am. Wear your green United "Heart-Hands" T-shirt (you can buy one today) and a hat, sunscreen, and walking shoes. Bring a full water bottle. Sign up by this Thurs, June 27 in the Community Room or at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com). More info: Pam Hyde ([pshyde50@comcast.net](mailto:pshyde50@comcast.net)). Let's show our United Pride! Thank you!

### **It's Time to Share—One Great Hour of Sharing**

Throughout the U.S. and around the world, our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference. United invites your support for the ecumenical effort that impacts lives and addresses issues of poverty and access to education. You can also designate it for particular emergencies (e.g., earthquake relief, long-term development, or emergency needs for refugees on the U.S./Mexico border). Donate online ([unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org)) or by check (memo: OGHŠ). Thank you!

### **Summer Drive for the Food Depot**

United offers many ways to support The Food Depot. If you have a garden at home, add an extra row and bring extra produce to United to go to the Depot. Or bring these items: cans/boxes of vegetables/fruit, pasta, rice; family-size packages, especially high-protein foods (dried beans, canned meats, soups); baby foods (powdered formula, cereal, jars); diapers. Monetary donations welcome: online at [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org) or check (memo "Food Depot"). Thank you!

### **Children's Garden Vegetables for Food Depot, too!**

All the produce from the Children's Garden this summer goes to the Food Depot to provide fresh vegetables in the food bags. If you'd like to help with weekly weeding or harvesting, please contact Donna Clark (505-490-9840).

### **United Church Commits to Love God, Neighbor, and Creation in a Whole Lot of Ways**

From supporting our Diné/Navajo sisters and brothers to providing relief resettlement for Afghan, Central American, and Ukrainian refugees to feeding hungry people in Santa Fe and helping persons recovering from New Mexico's devastating fires to 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](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org) to find out more!

## **Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls Thursdays at 8:00 am (via Zoom)**

Explore next Sunday's scriptures with Talitha Arnold and United members and friends from across Santa Fe and across the country. Sign up at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com) or speak with Talitha for more information.

### **Support Santa Fe's Shelters**

United Church provides full dinners monthly to Santa Fe Shelters. Join in "**Chop and Grate**" **this Friday at 9:30** to prepare casseroles for the Interfaith, Casa Familia, and St. Elizabeth Shelters **and/or make meatloaves at home and/or help deliver on Monday, June 24**. Please contact Pat Roach to lend a hand: [proach102@comcast.net](mailto:proach102@comcast.net) or call 505-988-7357.

## **LIGHTNING BOY HOOP DANCERS At United – This Friday, June 21 (7:00 pm) For All Ages!**

We welcome this exceptional Northern New Mexico Tribal Youth Troupe, who range in age from 5 years old to early 20's. The healing art of Hoop Dance is said to have its origins in the Pueblos of Northern New Mexico. Bring a friend and enjoy this unique New Mexico offering! Pack a picnic supper and come early. It will help if you sign up, too 😊 (in the Community Room or at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)).

### **Adult Forum: Report from the Border Next Sunday, June 23 (11:15 am)**

What is happening at the U.S./Mexico border? What is the impact on people and on the environment of the Border Wall? Is it working? Who are the people seeking asylum? Five United members (Melanie Lohmann, Steve Kerchoff, Sally and Kim Stewart, and youth Weston Puglisi) share their recent experiences at the border and the insights they gleaned.