

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
**for the**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**April 6, 2025**  
**10:00 A.M.**

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

*For Reflection*

*All people wondered to see the water turned to wine. Every day the earth's moisture being drawn into the root of a vine is turned by the grape into wine, and no one wonders. Full of wonder are all the things which we never think to wonder at.*

Pope Gregory the Great

**WE GATHER**

Gathering Music

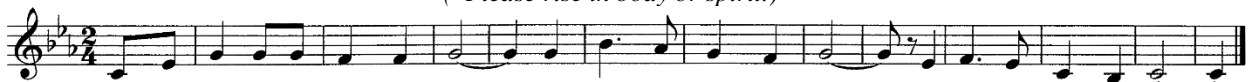
*Argentinian Dance No.2*  
*Be Thou My Vision*

Alberto Ginastera  
Traditional

\*Introit

*Donde hay caridad* (2x)  
*(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Joaquín Madurga



Don-de hay ca-ri-dad y a-mor, a - llí es - tá el Se - ñor, a - llí es - tá el Se - ñor.

*(Where charity and love are, there God is.)*

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Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing Those Gifts and Regathering in Song

*Donde hay caridad* (1x)

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Call to Lent from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 43:1-21 (cond.)

Thus says the Lord,  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine. . . .  
Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

Musical Call to Worship

*By the Babylonian Rivers*

Latvian folk tune/arr. Mark Sedio

The Call to Worship from The United Church Statement of Faith (**congregation bold**)

You have called us into your church, O God,

**To accept the cost and joy of discipleship,**

To serve you in serving your human family and caring for your creation,

**To proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,**

To share in Christ's baptism and eat at Christ's table, to follow in his ways of justice and peace, and to join in his passion and victory.

**In gratitude we accept your call, praise your holy name, and testify to your loving deeds.**

Let us sing to God!

\*Hymn

273

*Praise with Joy the World's Creator*

Iona Community/Lauda Anima

## WE PREPARE

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

**Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us forth from the womb of your being and breathed into us the breath of life. We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from you. Feed our deep hungers with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ. May Jesus' promise, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them," be fulfilled in us. Make us a joyful company of your people so that with the faithful in every time and place we may praise and honor you, God Most High. Amen.**

A Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Our Song of Praise 499

***Pues si vivimos***  
(1<sup>st</sup> Spanish; 1<sup>st</sup> English)

Mexican Folk Hymn

*(During the song, children are invited to Children's Ministry with Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.)*

## WE ENGAGE

From the Psalms of the Hebrews

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then it was said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."  
The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.

Restore our lives, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.  
May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.  
May those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.

Hymn 583

***Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us***

Daniel Bechtel/Austin

Sermon

*Bearing the Seed for Sowing*

Silent Reflection

A Musical Response

*Deep River*

African American Spiritual/arr. Moses Hogan

## WE RESPOND

Offering the Gifts God has Given Us

Offertory

***The Lord Has Done Great Things for Us***

Stephen DeCesare

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Bless our tithes and offerings, O God, returned to you. Multiply and use them for the sake of our neighbors, kindred, and all creation. Amen.**

Sharing the Gift of Communion

The Story of this Feast

The Invitation

The Prayer of Thanks and Blessing

Gracious God, you bless our lives every day and every night—through the wonders of your stars, moon, and sun, the beauty of earth and sky, all plants and animals. Open our eyes to see you in your creation all around us.

*(silence)*

You bless us also through the lives of our sisters and brothers with whom we share life, people of all ages, tongues, races, faiths, and colors. Open our hearts to see all persons as beloved children of a loving God.

*(silence)*

Ever-present God, you promise to be with us throughout our lives—in times of joy and sorrow, faith and doubt, times we feel strong and times when we need your healing and guidance. We thank you for that presence and for hearing our prayers for ourselves for those whom we hold in our hearts.

*(silence)*

God whose heart is greater than we can imagine, hear our prayers for this suffering world, for refugees and immigrants, for those caught in the violence of war and those caught in the violence of poverty and injustice.

*(silence)*

God who sees beyond violence to peace, beyond heartache to hope, even beyond death to new life, hear our prayers to have the courage to see your vision and the commitment to make it a reality in the lives of all people.

*(silence)*

Bless now by your Word and Spirit this bread and cup that they might become for us signs of your love and hope for us and for this world. As you offer us these gifts, may we accept your call to offer our lives for the sake of your people.

We pray in the name of the One who gave us the miracle of this feast and who taught us to pray with boldness, courage and trust saying,

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

### The Bread and the Cup

*As your section is called, please come down the aisle to your right. Receive the bread and either dip it into the chalice or take one of the small cups and return to your seat. If you would like a non-gluten wafer, please let the server know. All are welcome to share in the feast.*

### 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 in the promise of your new life for us and for this world that you love. Amen.**

## WE GO OUT IN PEACE

\*Hymn 391 *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (1-3, 5) Julian Rush/New Dimensions

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction *Kyrie Eleison* Ukrainian Orthodox Chant (9<sup>th</sup> c.)  
*Kyrie Eleison. Christe Eleison. Kyrie Eleison*

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## 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. Again, welcome!

Sharing worship leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Michelle Schumann, Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; Louise Cavatta, Liturgist; Elijah Marquez, Media Director, and Frank Wilbanks, Sound Technician. You were greeted by Blanca Surgeon, Don Duncan, Kimberly Zeilik, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata. The flowers on the Communion Table are given to the glory of God and in honor of Msgr. Jerome Martinez y Alire on the occasion of the 49th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

### *Welcoming Immigrants in Santa Fe*

#### **With Mayor Alan Webber – Today 11:15 am (in Sanctuary)**

Santa Fe is not officially a “sanctuary city,” but the city charter affirms that the community is welcoming to all people. What does that mean practically, particularly in light of the current crackdown on immigrants nationwide? For one, Mayor Alan Webber has reassembled the city’s Immigration Committee and also appeared on national news underscoring Santa Fe’s commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive community. As our Forum guest, he’ll share his views and ways for faith communities to welcome our neighbors in this time.

### **Tomorrow’s KSFR’s *Forum* Features Deb Haaland and “A Place Called Home”**

Talitha Arnold hosts tomorrow’s 6:00 pm *Forum* on KSFR (101.1 FM) with special guest former Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, followed by a conversation with Composer Bradley Ellingboe (United’s Director of Music) and Lyricist Charles Anthony (“Tony”) Silvestri on the New Mexico premiere of their “eco-cantata” *A Place Called Home* next Saturday at the Lensic (4:00 pm).

**Midweek Communion in Lent – Wednesdays (12:15 pm to 12:45 pm) through April 16**

Do you seek silence and time to breathe, pray, replenish? Come this Wednesday (12:15- 12:45) for such a time.

***A Place Called Home* by Bradley Ellingboe and Tony Silvestri  
New Mexico Premiere Saturday, April 12 – 4:00 pm at Lensic Theater  
with Orchestra, Soloists and the combined choirs of Coro Lux and the United Church  
(Panel Discussion at 2:30 pm)**

*A Place Called Home* is a musical plea for our Earth home, composed by Bradley Ellingboe with lyricist Charles Anthony (“Tony”) Silvestri. This dramatic cantata premiered in Carnegie Hall in April of 2023. Next Saturday, April 12, the work has its New Mexico premiere at the Lensic Theater, with the 75-voice combined choruses of United’s Sanctuary Choir and *Coro Lux* (thanks to United’s sponsorship in renting the Lensic and the NM State Arts Council for underwriting the cost of the soloists).

Plan to come—and invite friends—to the 4:00 pm concert—and come early to the 2:30 Panel Discussion with composer Ellingboe and lyricist Silvestri, along with Environmental Ethicist Larry Rasmussen and Navajo/Diné Psychiatrist Mary Hasbah Roessel, moderated by Rev. Talitha Arnold. (TX: [Lensic.org](http://Lensic.org))

**HOLY WEEK BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY**

***Palm Branches, Olive Grove, the Cross of Death and the Tree of Life***

The journey from Palm Sunday to the Last Supper and Calvary and finally to Easter morning is peopled with human beings making human decisions. But the natural world, especially trees, are also part of the story, from palm branches to olive trees to a wooden cross and the Tree of Life. What does creation teach us about our decisions to choose life over death?

***Tree Branches and an Olive Grove***

**Palm Sunday – April 13**

We begin worship as the Palm Sunday crowd, singing “Hosanna” and waving branches. Four nights later, we join Jesus as he prays in an olive grove, knowing that a wooden cross awaits him.

**Maundy Thursday – April 17 (7:00 pm)**

We share Communion, followed by the account of Jesus’ Passion as prays in an olive grove, knowing that wooden cross awaits him. United Youth and our new Family Ministry Director Dana Bender lead the Tenebrae and extinguishing of light.

**Good Friday – April 18**

**Creation Care – 9:00 to 11:30**

**Good Friday Worship – 12:00 Noon**

As we gather to engage this hard story, we pray for ourselves and our loved. We pray, too, all God’s people and God’s crucified creation living under the shadow of the cross. The Sanctuary will also be open until 3:00 pm for private prayer.

***The Tree of Life***

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**April 20**

**6:30 am Outdoor Sunrise Communion**

**10:00 am All Age Celebration of the Resurrection**

**Easter Flower Remembrances – Palm Sunday, April 13**

To honor or remember a loved one on Easter, please complete an “Easter Remembrance” form and out with donation in Community Room envelope. Suggested donation: \$20/lily. Names will be in Easter bulletins.



**Adult Forum: *The Power of Poetry in Caring for Creation* – Poet and Lyricist Tony Silvestri**

**Next Sunday – April 13 (11:15 am)**

“We will not save what we do not love,” said the Senegalese forest scientist Baba Dioum. Poetry can be an expression of that love, especially for creation and the natural world. We welcome renowned poet Tony Silvestri (and lyricist for *A Place Called Home*) as our guest, to share his poetry, faith journey, and deep love for God’s creation.

**At United, we seek to “Love God, Neighbor, Creation” in a whole lot of ways. . . .**

Support for Ukrainian, Sudanese, and Gazan refugees, caring for immigrants at the border, reducing our carbon impact, emergency funds for our Diné/Navajo neighbors, and more! To help, go to [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org). Thank you!

**Office Volunteer Needed One Hour/Week**

Weekly Office Volunteer Maggie Popp is having knee surgery this month, and a fill-in volunteer is needed. Can you spare an hour a week to get coffee, etc. ready for Sunday mornings, prepare the monthly communion bags, and sometimes address envelopes or stuff letters? Please let Office Administrator Lin Raymond or Talitha Arnold know. Thank you!

**Washing Towels and Ironing Communion Linens**

Another volunteer job needed is once a month to launder and fold a load of kitchen towels (at your house) and also washing and Ironing 3 or 4 communion napkins. Let Lin Raymond or Talitha Arnold know if you can help. Thanks!