

**A Service of Word and Sacrament
for
Epiphany Sunday
January 4, 2026**

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

*Introit

***Vamos todos a Belén* (2x)**
(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Northern New Mexico



Words of Welcome, Breathing in God's Gifts, and Sharing God's Peace

Regathering in Song

As with Gladness

Dix

*As with gladness those of old, did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see!

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.*

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu

trad. Spanish

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

People of God, listen to the Good News. When the time had come, the angel said to Mary,
(Children) Be not afraid!

You have found favor with God.

(Adults) And God is with you!

When the time had come, the angel said to Joseph,

(Children) Be not afraid!

The child is of the Holy Spirit.

(Adults) And God is with you!

When the time had come, the angel said to shepherds,

(Children) Be not afraid!

I have good news of great joy!

(Adults) And God is with you!

Now, when the time has come, the angel says to us,

(Children) Be not afraid!

Emmanuel has come,

(ALL) And God is with you, with me, with all of us!

*Hymn

126

***Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (1-3)**

Regent Square

WE PREPARE

*In a Prayer for Epiphany

O God, who by the shining of a star, guided wise ones to behold Jesus, our Savior, show us your heavenly light, and give us grace to follow it until we find that light and rejoice in it. Grant that as they presented gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we may now bring our offering of a loving heart, a hopeful spirit, and a courageous life. Amen.

*In a Time of Silent Prayer and Affirmation of Faith

*In a Song of Praise

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

*Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in God's temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

WE ENGAGE

El Viaje de Los Reyes Magos (The Journey of the Three Kings)

Mateo 2:1-12

In the time of *Rey Herodes* (King Herod) after *Jesús* was born *en Belén* of Judea, *los reyes magos* (wise kings) from the East came to *Jerusalén*, asking, “*¿Dónde está el niño* (where is the child) who has been born *un rey*? For we observed *su estrella* (his star) at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When *Rey Herodes* heard this, he was frightened, and all *Jerusalén* with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where *el Mesías* was to be born. They told him, “*En Belén* of Judea....”

Then *Herodes*, secretly called for *los reyes magos* and learned from them the exact time when *la estrella* had appeared. Then he sent them *a Belén*, saying, “Go and search diligently *para el niño* and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard *Rey Herodes*, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went *la estrella* that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place *donde estaba el niño*. When they saw that *la estrella* had stopped, they were overwhelmed *con alegría* (with joy). On entering *la casa*, they saw *el niño* with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts *de oro, incienso y mirra*. And having been warned in a dream not to return *a Herodes*, they left for their own country *por otro camino* (by another road).

Carol

We Three Kings

Kings of Orient

*We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts, we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold Christ arise, Child and God and Sacrifice,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Earth to the heav'ns replies. [Refrain]*

Sermon

¿Dónde está el niño?

Silent Reflection

Musical Response 159

As with Gladness Those of Old

William C. Dix/Conrad Kocher

WE SHARE AND RECEIVE

Offering Our Gifts

Rise, Shine!

Williams/Martin

Receiving the Gift of Communion

The Story of this Feast and the Invitation to the Table

The Community's Prayer and the Prayer of Our Savior

As the Wise Ones of old followed the star:

Help us, O God, to follow the leading of your Spirit.

As they were led to the Savior:

Lead us, Holy One, to your Way, your Truth and your Life.

As they brought treasures to the Christ Child:

Empower us, Almighty One, to bring your gifts of faith and hope and love to all your children.
(silence)

As they fell down and worshipped the Child:

Inspire us, Blessed One, to serve you every moment of our lives.

As Herod was kept from doing him harm:

Keep us, Loving One, from doing violence to your people or your creation.

As Mary kept all things and pondered them in her heart:
Enable us, Wisest One, to remember and to love.
(silence)

As Joseph had the courage to trust your word in his life:
Give us the courage to trust you also.
As your Love shines forever as the Light of the world:
Shine forth in us that we may be light of our world in this time.
(silence)

Come, O Holy One,
Fill us now and always with your light.
Be our daily star and guide our feet in your path of life.
Help us find our way back to your true love and hope for all.

Bless now, by your Word and Spirit, these gifts of bread and cup,
that they might feed our deep hungers and quench our deep thirst.
Bless us also with that same Word and Spirit that we might feed the hunger
and quench the thirst of this world.

We pray in your name and the name of the Child of Bethlehem, Emmanuel,
who taught us to pray with boldness, courage, and trust, saying:
(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.)

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(All are welcome to share in Communion. As your section is called, please come down the designated aisle, please come forward to receive the bread or a nongluten wafer. Then either dip the bread into the chalice or take one of the individual cups and return to your seat by the next aisle. Again, all are welcome!)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we thank you for Christ's presence and for the gifts we have received here. Send us now into your world in courage and peace. Lead us on your paths of hope and peace. Open our eyes to see you at work in the world. Open our hearts to see Christ in all people, and open our minds to find our way home by another way. We pray in the name of *Jesús el Cristo*, Emmanuel, *Dios-con-nosotros*. Amen.

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn

Star Child
(music: Carlton Young, 1994; text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1992)

(All) *Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod.
This year, this year, let the day arrive,
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

(Men) *Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know.
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

(Women) *Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears.
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

(All) *Spared child, spoiled child, having wanting more,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store.
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

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*Benediction and Musical Benediction

***Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign, down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine.
This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!***

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!
We're glad you're here!
Your presence and prayers enrich the experience of us all.

Sharing Leadership in Worship Today Are . . .

Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Michelle Schumann, Music Director/Pianist; Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministry; the “Drop-in Choir” directed by André García-Nuthmann; Sam Elkind and Blanca Surgeon, Liturgists and Scripture Readers; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. You were welcomed by Rosemary Thompson, Blanca Surgeon, Diane Darby, Pam Hyde, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

Get Acquainted this Epiphany Sunday!

Like the Wise Ones, the United Community comes from many different places. Enjoy an extended coffee and conversation time in the Learning Center or Education Wing with snacks (cheese, crackers, fruit), and leftover Christmas goodies. Get your coffee or tea in the Community Room and then sit a spell to get to know your United neighbors. All welcome!

Nursery care is available for our youngest children. School-age kids are encouraged to join in the Epiphany service today.

Confirmation/Initiates class today in the Youth Room! We'll wrap up our discussion about United Church of Christ values and ways in which we can apply those values toward a common outreach project.

COMING UP THIS WEEK . . .

Wednesday Women's Study Group – 10:00 am

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Endowment Committee – Friday, January 9, 10:00 am

Adult Forums in the New Year

BookKids – 5 Books/Year for Santa Fe Public School Kids

Next Sunday – Jan. 11

Since the mid-1990's, the United Church of Santa Fe has been supplying free books of all kinds to children and youth in the Santa Fe Public Schools. From the initial one book a year for students at Salazar School through the United Church/Salazar Partnership, the program has grown to provide 5 books a year throughout several schools by BookKids (also started by United Church). Join Gail Ansheles and other United volunteers to learn more about BookKids!

Immigration and Refugees: What's Happening at the Roundhouse?

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday – Jan. 18

United's Immigration and Refugee Task Force provides an update on legislation proposed for the month-long Legislative session (starting January 19). Learn how you can make your voice heard and make a difference.

COMING UP IN THE WEEKS TO COME:

Resiliency and Hope: Unpacking the Gospel of John

Thursdays at 8:00 am – Starting January 22

Zoom (please register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

Save the Date! Family Friday Fun Night – Friday, January 23

All welcome for an evening of food, games, and activities! We'll get a sneak preview of the new playground/outdoor worship space coming soon. Bring the kids! Bring friends! 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Please sign up today!

FebFest 2026 – Celebration of African American Sacred Music

Saturday, January 31: Choral Workshop with Dr. G. Phillip Schoultz at United Church
Sunday, February 1: Concert with FebFest Choir at St. Francis Cathedral (3:00 pm)

United Church of Santa Fe and *Coro Lux* (Albuquerque choir directed by Bradley Ellingboe) present FebFest 2026 with special guest, Dr. G. Phillip Schoultz. All day choral workshop with Dr. Schoultz (and United pianist Michelle Schumann) for singers of all backgrounds on Saturday, Jan. 31. On Sunday, Feb. 1, Dr. Schoultz directs the FebFest Choir in a free concert at St. Francis Cathedral. Dr. Schoultz will also be our guest in worship that Sunday morning. To register as a singer for the Saturday workshop and Sunday concert, please go to abqcorolux.org. Also, the Sunday afternoon concert at St. Francis Cathedral includes a freewill offering to support the new Santa Fe Faith Coalition for Immigration and the Albuquerque Road Runner Food Bank. Plan to come—and spread the word! For more info, please call 505-988-3295.