

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
August 23, 2026
10:00 A.M.

For Reflection

If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.

Loren Eiseley – Poet, Educator, and Natural Science Writer

WE GATHER

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

Prelude

*Songs without Words, Op. 62, No. 1
Like a River Glorious*

Felix Mendelssohn
James Mountain/arr. J. Purifoy

*Introit

Heleluyan (2x)
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Muscogee



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Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

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

*Sharing God's Gifts and Regathering in Song

Heleluyan (1x)

Muscogee

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

Down to the River to Pray

Traditional

The Call to Worship from the Tewa Tradition (**cong. bold**)

We gather to worship God, the Lord and Giver of Life.

God gives us el agua de la vida, the waters of life!

In the deserts of our lives, in the wilderness within,

God gives us el agua de la vida.

To give us hope when our lives run dry, to give us strength when our world seems barren,

God gives us el agua de la vida.

To make justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a living stream,

God gives us el agua de la vida.

To give us—and our world—a second chance and a new beginning,

God gives us el agua de la vida.

Come, people of God, open your lives to receive God's life. Open your hearts to sing God's praise.

*Hymn

597

Shall We Gather at the River (1-3)

Robert Lowrey/Hanson Place

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation (adapted from a prayer by Anne Rowthorn)

O Fount of every blessing,
 **we give you thanks for drawing creation from the well of your goodness,
 and for pouring out love on all who thirst for good news.**
We confess that we are thirsty, too, and we long to drink deeply.
Wash over us with your living water.
 If our lives have become shallow, deepen them.
 If our ideals have dried up, revive them.
 If our priorities have become confused, clarify them.
 If our horizons have become too narrow, widen them.
Soak us in your presence.
 Drench us with your love.
Release us from all that burdens us,
 and refresh us with your life-changing mercy.
 In the name of our baptized Savior, we pray. Amen.

A Time of Silent Prayer

The Assurance of God's Grace and Power

*Our Song of Praise

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

*Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.*

(During the song, elementary children are invited to come forward for a blessing. They then leave for Kids United with Family Minister Dana Bender. Nurture Center Coordinator Tracy Church offers songs, stories, and activities for Pre-K's and Kinders. Children's Assistant Maria Navarette cares for our littlest ones (infants & toddlers)).

*Blessing of the Children

WE ENGAGE

A Story from the River

Exodus 1:8-14; 2:1-10

Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so Pharaoh and his people came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the slave masters worked them ruthlessly....

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile River, but let every girl live."

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

Hymn 283

Spirit of the Living God (2x)

Daniel Iverson

Sermon

Drawn from the River

Silent Reflection

Musical Reflection

Deep River

Spiritual/arr. H.T. Burleigh

A Time of Silent Reflection

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Prayer of Our Savior

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

Presenting Our Gifts

I've Got Peace like a River

Traditional/arr. P. Keveren

*Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 569

Touch the Earth Lightly (vs. 1, 3-4)

Shirley Erena Murray/Tenderness

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory!

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

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. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Also sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Dr. Michelle Schumann, Pianist; Dana Bender, Family Minister; Choral Scholar Heather Lacy; Leo Joyce, Liturgist; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez with audio volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Rosemary Thompson, Kimberly Zeilik, Tom Stewart, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

The flowers on the Communion Table are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the life of Betty Bordner.

Kids United – Blessing and Letting Go

This Sunday, we start a unit called "Blessing and Letting Go." As one of the kids said to Dana Bender this past Sunday, "Why do I need to be blessed every Sunday?" This is an excellent question! What does it mean to be a blessing? Why do we say, "Blessings on this blessed day?" This is the jumping-off point for our discussions, games, and crafts in the coming weeks. Nurture Center care and ministry with infants through Kinders offered by Tracy Church and Maria Navarette.

11:15 Gathering of Parents of Youth (entering 6th through 12th grade)

Come learn what this year's youth ministry will look like! We'll meet in the Education Wing and share a calendar of events and specific info about an October Ghost Ranch Retreat. Interested? Contact Family Minister Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com) and/or stay after worship to meet with Dana and others today!

The Adult Forum scheduled for today (*Watershed Health Is Our Health, Too*) has been postponed to a later date.

THIS WEEK

How to Recognize Scams and Avoid Becoming a Victim **This Monday – 6:00 pm—“The Forum” on KSFR 101.1 FM**

Co-hosts Jim Falk and Talitha Arnold interview Justin Garris, FBI Special Agent in Charge, Albuquerque and Century Bank’s Natalie Foy, Fraud Manager, and Colleen Harley, Senior Treasury Consultant. Program rebroadcast on Wednesday at 4:00 and podcast on KSFR website.

Books That Didn’t Make It into the Bible – Pretty Good Guys **Wednesday, August 26 (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 discussions, starting Wednesday, August 26.

Forgiveness, Hope and Resilience – Zoom Bible Study Group **Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:00 am (MDT) – To register, email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.**

Next Sunday, August 30 – 46th Annual Meeting of the United Church of Santa Fe

We’ll give thanks for our life and ministry, recognize outgoing Council members, elect the new Council, and look to the future. (The meeting will also be available by live stream.) Annual Reports will be emailed and copies also available at church. (Childcare offered.)

Wednesday Women’s Study Group Starts Sept. 2 (10:00 am) – “The Lion Women of Tehran”

Through next May, we read great books and discuss them on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (10:00 to 11:30 am). We hope you’ll join in! We start Sept. 2 with *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali. Info: Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, mommorton@gmail.com); Jenn Wynn (817-219-0707, home@wynnes.us).

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals Begin Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7:00 pm

The Sanctuary Choir resumes its regular rehearsal schedule Wednesday, Sept. 9 and sings in the 10:00 service Sunday, Sept. 13 (9:00 rehearsal). All welcome! Please contact Music Director Michelle Schumann (unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com).

\$1 Feeds 4 People – Summer Fund Drive for Santa Fe Food Depot

The Santa Fe Food Depot stretches every \$1 donated to create 4 meals of healthy food for people throughout Northern New Mexico. To donate, make checks to “United Church,” (memo “Food Depot”) or go online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you! Our Children’s Garden also supplies the Food Depot with fresh vegetables for food bags. To help with weekly weeding and/or harvesting, please contact Dana Bender.

Donations for Consuelo’s Place and Casa Familia

Through August, the Faith Coalition for Immigration invites donations for Consuelo’s Place (an emergency shelter) and Casa Familia (for women and children). Cleaning supplies needed for both shelters include laundry detergent, toilet paper, trash bags. Casa Familia also needs women’s undergarments, shampoo, personal hygiene items, diapers. ¡Con mil gracias!

Love God by Loving Creation

United’s Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change

Track car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and the *Santa Fe Watershed Association* for their environmental advocacy and hands-on care for God’s good earth and generations yet to come. (\$8/100 miles driven; \$8/3 hours in the air). Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

Compost Collection – It’s a Miracle! (And it helps mitigate climate change.)

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Two ways to help: 1.) Please use the compost containers in the Community Room and education rooms for your coffee cups, napkins, or plates from the Fellowship Time or church meals. They’re all compostable. 2.) Get compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and then put in green bin in back of the church.

Cybersecurity Tips for Emails and Texts – Please Read This Caution!

Churches and church members aren’t immune to scams, hacks, and phishing. Some ways to reduce the risk:

- Church staff will never write you directly for your credit card information or ask you to purchase a gift card. If the email address does not begin with “unitedchurch,” it is a scam. For texts, check the phone number. Either way, call the person it claims to be.
- Once confirmed that the email or text is a scam, please report it as phishing to your email provider or report a phishing text by texting 7726.

When in doubt, don’t open the text or email—contact the person it claims to be from directly.