A Service of the Word
for
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 10, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

“I’ve tried [to forget the past], but the more I try the more it haunts my dreams. So one way to heal is to keep doing good work, like helping others—especially children.... I think I need the same amount of good work, or even more, to balance the bad things I was forced to do during war.... If I am not a man of peace, I’ll remain a child of war.

Arn Chorn-Pond, Child survivor of the Cambodian Genocide
Founder of “Children of War” and Cambodian Living Arts

WE GATHER
(As you enter the Sanctuary, please turn off your cell phone and enter into a time of silence so that you and others can let the music lead us into communion with God’s beauty and power.)

Gathering Medley of Hymns

*Introit
Salaam, Salaam (2x) Manal Samir

(As adults and older youth are being seated, children and younger youth are invited to Children’s Ministry.)

WE PREPARE

*A Prayer of Invocation
Gracious God of the morning and the evening hours, we thank you for this time of prayer together—for silence in the midst of noise, for music in the midst of clamor, for your peace in our lives. Forgive us for the times we have not waited for that peace, trusting instead our own desires and ambitions. Forgive us for the harm we have done and the good we have left undone, as individuals, communities, nations.

(A time of silent prayer)

(Leader) Open us to your healing presence, O Lord. Remind us always there is more grace in you than sin in us, more wholeness in you than brokenness in us, more life in you than death in us. May that grace, healing, and life renew our souls this day. Amen.
WE ENGAGE

The Vision of Isaiah

In days to come, the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us the ways and that we may walk in God’s paths.”

Isaiah 2:1-5

The Teachings of Jesus

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the religious leaders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Saludos, Rabino” and kissed him. Jesus said to him, “Amigo, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Creator, and God will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?” . . . Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Matthew 26:47-53, 56

Sermon

What Does the Bible Really Say about Violence and Guns?

Silent Reflection

A Musical Response

Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118, No.2

Johannes Brahms

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer (a time of silent prayer follows each petition)

Giver of life and love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in peace. Surround us with your love even as we lament the tragedy of gun violence.

For the children and adults who lost their lives, the brave ones who died protecting others, the many who were wounded and hospitalized, the grieving and traumatized survivors, and those known to you alone, Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

God of righteousness, you have granted our leaders in all the branches of government and all the settings of decision-making the power and responsibility to protect us, and to uphold our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Strengthen their devotion to our common life and give them clarity of purpose. For all who bear such responsibility, for all who struggle to discern what is right in the face of powerful political forces, Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

God of compassion, we give you thanks for first responders: police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and all those whose duties bring them to the streets, the schools, the malls, the places of worship, and the homes where the carnage of gun violence takes place every day. We thank you, too, for teachers and rabbis, pastors and store workers who give their lives to keep others safe. Give them courage and sound judgment in the heat of the moment and grant them compassion for the victims. For our brothers and sisters who risk their lives and serenity as they rush to our aid, Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.
Merciful God, bind up the wounds of all who suffer from gun violence, be that suffering physical or emotional, for themselves or for others. Bless them with your presence and help them find hope. For all whose lives are forever changed and broken by the scourge of gun violence, Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

God who remembers, may we not forget all those who have died in the past year in the gun violence that we have allowed to become routine. Receive them into your heart and comfort us with your promise of eternal love and care. For all who have died, those who die today, and those who will die tomorrow, Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

God of tender mercy, we thank you for all who are working to end the scourge of violence in this nation and in the world. Be with those who are overwhelmed, enraged, frustrated and demoralized by their witness falling on deaf ears. Give them a sense of your continuing presence and plant in them the seed of hope. For all engaged in such work and witness,

Make us instruments of your peace.

God of justice, give us courage to confront our false gods and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun violence. Help us rise above our dread that nothing can be done and grant us the conviction to advocate for change. For your dream of a world where children are safe and all of us live together without fear, Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

All this we pray in the name of the one who told his followers to put away their swords, who offered his life so that we might live, and who taught us to pray together with boldness, courage, and trust, saying . . .

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

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Closing Hymn 436 God of Grace and God of Glory (1-3, 5) Harry Emerson Fosdick/Cwm

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction Kyrie Eleison (3x) Ukrainian Chant

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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, Senior Pastor; Jessie Lo, Pianist; and Media Technician Elijah Marquez. Liturgists will be announced.

We invite you to offer your tithes and gifts in the plates by the entrance. Your financial support of United makes possible this church’s work in the community and the world. You can also donate online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

PRAVING IN THE DIRT
Children’s Ministry Sunday Mornings
This summer United’s children tend the Children’s Garden on Sunday mornings during worship, become the “River Anew” and learn about God and God’s earth, water, air, and creatures. All welcome! (Adult volunteers welcome, too! Please let Talitha Arnold or Kate Murphy know.)

ADULT FORUM: PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE (after 10:00 service)
Individually and as a church—what can we do to prevent gun violence. Come to the 11:15 forum to learn ways now and when the State Legislature convenes in January 2023.
ALSO COMING UP THIS WEEK . . .

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<td>TUES</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Before Birth Control Was Legal – Zoom Conversation with Rev. Joan Forsberg</td>
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<td>WED</td>
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<td>Pretty Good Guys</td>
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<td>THURS</td>
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<td>Resiliency and Hope Study Group (via Zoom)</td>
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<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Thursday Night Live</td>
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<td>Middle &amp; High School Youth</td>
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<td>SAT</td>
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<td>Memorial Service for Julia Moore – registration required.</td>
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<td>SUN</td>
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<td>Worship with Drop-In Choir and Children’s Ministry</td>
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<td>11:15 am</td>
<td>Adult Forum: Meeting United’s New Pianist, Jessie Lo</td>
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BEFORE BIRTH CONTROL WAS LEGAL
Zoom Conversation with Rev. Joan Forsberg, Witness in “Griswold v. Connecticut”
Tuesday, July 12—7:00 pm MDT
In the early 1960’s, Rev. Joan Forsberg, an ordained United Church of Christ minister, Yale Divinity School graduate, wife, and mother of three children, wanted to practice family planning. But prescribing or purchasing contraception was illegal. She became a “witness for the prosecution” in the landmark “Griswold v. Connecticut” Supreme Court case that finally made contraception legal throughout the U.S. This Tuesday at 7:00 pm MDT, you’re invited to in a Zoom presentation with Rev. Forsberg. To register, please email unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.

Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday, July 13 (10:30 am)
All men invited to join in this twice-monthly meeting. We gather outside for discussion and fellowship. (Greg Gaertner: greg.gaertner@comcast.net, 505-428-8910)

Resiliency and Hope: What Does the Bible Really Say about . . . All Kinds of Things?
Thursdays at 8:00 am – Zoom (please register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)
Explore the scriptures for the upcoming Sundays and help inform the sermon 😊. All welcome!

A Life of Music and Faith – Next Sunday in 11:15 Adult Forum
Stay after the 10:00 service next Sunday for a chance to get better acquainted with our new Pianist, Jessie Lo, who has studied music and played for churches from Taiwan to Austria to Florida to California—and now with United!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH
(Youth Minister Kate Murphy: unitedchurch.kate@gmail.com)

JULY LIVE! 2022
(Thursdays 5:30 to 7:00 pm)
United’s weekly outdoor evening program includes supper and lots of fun. Come each week or just when you’re in town. Grandchildren and friends always welcome! Please sign up at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com by Wednesday.

July 14 – Scavenger Hunt
July 21 – Bubbles, Bubbles, Bubbles

Middle and High School Youth
This Thursday (July 14) at United (7:15 to 8:30)
Encourage your kids to join with other United Youth—and friends—for summer fun! Led by Kate Murphy and volunteers, they’ll play ice breaker games, then enjoy a Scavenger Hunt (and the final clue is ice cream)

UNITED CHURCH YOUTH GO TO CAMP!
Thanks to Youth Minister Kate Murphy’s connections to the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ, four United Youth are going to Church Camp at La Foret UCC near Colorado Springs. Next Sunday, we’ll bless Derek and Makayla Darby and Bailey and Jace Gordon as they leave for their adventure!

8:30 OUTDOOR CONTEMPLATIVE COMMUNION OFFERED SUNDAYS
All are welcome to this half-hour outdoor service through the summer. Spread the word! Thank you!

“Lightning Boy Hoop Dancers” at United – Friday, July 29 (7:00 pm) – For All Ages!
The event features tribal youth from northern New Mexico. The Hoop Dance continues to be known as a healing art form and is said to have its origins in the Pueblos of Northern New Mexico. Bring a lawn chair, a friend, and enjoy this unique New Mexico offering! You can also pack a picnic supper and come early. It will help if you sign up, too :-). (unitedchurchofsantafe.org)

At United, we seek to “LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, 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 to find out more!