

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for
THE 20th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

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

**October 15, 2023
10:00 A.M.**

God is already here.

For Reflection:

“You can’t pray a lie.”

Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*

WE GATHER

(May the Prelude be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship. Please silence your cellphone and/or watch.)

Gathering Music

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
I’m Gonna Sing/Ain’t-a That Good News?*

Nicaea/arr. Lloyd Larson
Spiritual/arr. Larry Shackley

*Introit

Come All You People
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Alexander Gondo

***Come all you people, come and praise your Maker, Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker. Come now and worship the Lord.***

Come all you people, come and praise the Most High. . . .

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Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

How Beautiful to Give Thanks! – Campaign for United 2024

Breathing in and Sharing God’s Gifts

Blessing for this Blessed Day!

Regathering and Breathing in God’s Gifts Again

Come All You People (1x)

Musical Call to Worship

We Are Your People

Brian Wren/Whitfield

Call to Worship from Psalm 103 (**congregation in bold**)

People of God, look around and see. Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

See the faces of those we know and love—neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers—a community of kindred hearts.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

See the faces of those we hardly know—strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

See all the images of God assembled here. In me, in you, in each of us, God’s spirit shines for all to see.

Gente de Dios, miren y vean.

Come and see God in all the people of God. Let us worship together.

*Hymn

420

We Praise You, O God

Julia C. Cory/Kremser

WE PREPARE

A Prayer of Invocation

Eternal Spirit of the universe,
**we thank you that you do not leave us alone
but place your word within us
and in the midst of our life together.**

You are no statue made of silver or gold,
but a living reality on the face of the earth.

Give us the courage and commitment
**to let your winds blow through us
and to let your life be revealed among us.**

Empowered by your Spirit,
**may we share our life together with joy,
care for the needs of your people,
bear witness to your love through our lives,
and praise you day by day.
We pray in your name. Amen.**

A Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of God's Grace

*Our Song of Praise

From All That Dwell below the Skies

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung! Let God the Spirit free each tongue!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Blessing the Children for Their Journey

Child of Blessing

Stuttgart

(During the hymn, children are invited to Children's Ministry.)

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With all blessing, God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

*Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed,
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.*

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WE ENGAGE

From the History of the Hebrews (cong. bold)

Exodus 32:1-24 (cond.)

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, **"Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."** Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, **"These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"** When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' ". . .

Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain, carrying the two tablets of the covenant in his hands, tablets that were written on both sides, written on the front and on the back. The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved upon the tablets. When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp." But he said, "It is not the sound made by victors, or the sound made by losers; it is the sound of revelers that I hear."

As soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets from his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. He took the calf that they had made, burned it with fire, ground it to powder, scattered it on the water, and made the Israelites drink it.

Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?" And Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord burn hot; you know the people, that they are bent on evil. They said to me, 'Make us gods, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' So I said to them, 'Whoever has gold, take it off;' so they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

Hymn 292

Breathe on Me, Breath of God (1-2)

Trentham

Sermon

And Out Came this Calf!

A Time of Silent Reflection

A Musical Response

Since by Man Came Death from *Messiah*

George F. Handel

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Prayer of Our Savior *(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.)*

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 476

How Can I Keep from Singing? (1-2, 4)

Endless Song

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison (3x)

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant



Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory!

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, Pastor; Sam Elkind, Treasurer; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Dr. Jessie Lo, Pianist; the United Choir; Sasha Smucker, Eloise Benham, William Benham, and Jack Smucker, Liturgists; Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. You were welcomed by Trudy Swint, Pam Hyde, Louise Cavatta, and Gail Mattson. Luis Zapata is the Sunday Aide.

Adult Forum: *The Middle East – Today at 11:15 am*

Talitha Arnold leads a conversation about the current situation in Israel and Palestine and shares a PowerPoint to help provide some background for what's happening and why. This Sunday's forum is simply a start to an ongoing engagement in this troubling and complex time.

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!

United's Children Love God, Neighbor, and Creation and take a Journey of Faith!

Sunday Mornings during 10:00 Worship

Steven Spielberg and Marvel Comics have nothing on the Book of Exodus, the Bible's great story of people learning to live freely, in covenant with God, one another, and creation. Moses parts the Red Sea, water gushes from a rock, God sends manna in the desert, etc. etc. As kids find their role in God's great story, they learn how to care for others and all creation—just as God cared for the people in the wilderness. All kids—and friends—welcome!

Women's Study Group – Wednesday, October 4 (10:00 am)

All women welcome. We continue reading Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz' *The Indigenous People's History of the United States*. Pick up book schedule in the Community Room or contact Barbara MacPhee (macphee.b@gmail.com).

Sanctuary Choir Welcomes You!

Rehearses Wednesdays (7:00 pm) and Sings Sunday (10:00 service)

Interested? Contact Director of Music Brad Ellingboe: unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com.

***Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls* – Thursdays at 8:00 am via Zoom**

Explore Sunday scriptures with Talitha Arnold and friends from across Santa Fe and across the country.

Chop and Grate – This Friday, Oct. 20 (9:30 am)

Help prepare casseroles for the guests of Santa Fe's Shelters. All welcome!

Family Supper Bags – This Friday, Oct. 20

Once a month, United provides a simple, possibly home-made, take-home supper for United families. That gives hard-working, juggling-everything parents a break and feeds bodies and souls of both kids and parents. Please let Talitha Arnold know if your family would like a family supper bag by this Wednesday, Oct. 18.

Santa Fe River Clean Up – This Saturday, October 21 (8:30-10:00 am)

Join us to care for our corner of Creation. Meet at Closson St. Pedestrian Bridge. We provide donuts, coffee, trash bags. You bring a hat, sunscreen, and gloves. Sign up in the Community Room or at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com or 505-988-3295. All Creation thanks you!

Next Sunday's Adult Forum: *A Youth View from Abroad* – (11:15 am)

We welcome foreign exchange students (Pietro Calderera and Sev Kofler) who are living with Carlos Lee and Russell Stowers this year and attending Santa Fe High School. Pietro is from Spain, Sev is from Germany. They'll share what life as a teenager is like in their home countries—and what they see in the U.S.

Halloween Youth Night – Friday, Oct. 27 (6:00 - 8:30 pm)

Food, games, and s'mores to get ready for All Hallows' Eve.

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

Supporting our Diné/Navajo neighbors. Providing relief and resettlement for Afghan, Central American, and Ukrainian refugees. Feeding hungry people in Santa Fe. 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!

***From Aging to "Sage-ing"* – Study Group Forming**

Following the forum on *Living into Aging*, a number of people expressed interest in starting study groups to continue the conversations. If you're one of them, please let Talitha Arnold know of your interest or sign up in the Community Room. Groups forming later this month.

Make United's Welcome a Real Deal!

We want to be a welcoming community every Sunday—we need your help to do that! Sign up today to greet/usher. Thanks!

United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change (and Climate Disasters)

When you drive or fly, mitigate the carbon you put into the air through United's "**Carbon Offset Program**" that supports climate advocacy of *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and hands-on work of *Tree New Mexico*. The math is easy. Flying: donate \$4 for every hour in flight; driving: donate \$4 per 1,000 miles. More info at: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

BOOKKIDS in Santa Fe holds book giveaways in three Santa Fe public schools this fall (Pre K to 8th). Each child receives five free books. Volunteers welcome! (Diane Bethune: 845-240-4284 or dbethune647@gmail.com)

How Beautiful to Give Thanks!

2024 Campaign for United

Concert with Ken Medema – Sat. Nov. 4 (4:00 pm – with dessert at 3:00 pm)

10:00 Worship Service, Sun., Nov. 5

(Both Saturday concert and Sunday Service in-person and livestreamed)

United's annual Stewardship Drive has a new look—and sound—this year, thanks to Brad Ellingboe's musical connection with composer and pianist Ken Medema. We've sung Ken's music at United for many years (*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying; The Tree Song*, etc.). It sings of God's beauty, grace, and care—all reasons to give thanks to God by sharing our blessings. That's the essence of Christian Stewardship. On Sat. Nov. 4, Ken offers a concert of his music, including songs he will make up on the spot from *your* stories. We'll also offer our own pledges of support for United's future. We hope you'll join in both the 3:00 pm dessert and the 4:00 concert for all ages! (Ken will also be our guest in the 10:00 Sunday service.)