

**A Service of the Word
for
The First Sunday after Epiphany Sunday
January 11, 2026 – 10:00 A.M.**

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

A Prayer for the New Year

Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.
There will be much to test me and make weak my strength before the year ends.
In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true
and do the thing of which I am ashamed.
There will be errors in the mind and great inaccuracies of judgment.
In seeking the light,
I shall again and again find myself
walking in the darkness.
I shall mistake my light for Your light
and I shall drink from the responsibility of the choices I make...
Though my days be marked with failures, stumblings, fallings,
let my spirit be free so that You may take it
and redeem my moments in all the ways my needs reveal.
Give me the quiet assurance of Your Love and Presence.
Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.

Howard Thurman, 20th c. Protestant Theologian

WE GATHER

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

Gathering Music

*La cathédrale engloutie
Come, Thou Fount*

Claude Debussy
The Sacred Harp

*Introit

Shall We Gather at the River?
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Hanson Place

***Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.***

***On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.***

Welcome, Sharing Our Life, and Breathing in God's Gifts

Sharing God's Gifts and Regathering in Song

***As we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down,
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and a crown.
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.***

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

Come to the Water

Joseph Martin

The Call to Worship

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

God gives us the waters of new life.

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

God gives us the waters of new life.

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

God gives us the waters of new life.

To let peace flow like a river and love spring forth like a fountain,

God gives us the waters of new life.

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

God gives us the waters of new life.

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

God gives us the waters of new life.

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

*Hymn 326 *Crashing Waters at Creation* (1, 3-4) Sylvia Dunstan/Stuttgart

WE PREPARE

In a Prayer for the New Year (unison—front cover)

Howard Thurman

In a Time of Silent Prayer and the Affirmation of God's Grace

*In a Song of Praise *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing* Robert Robinson/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, children are invited to the Nurture Center with
Children's Ministry Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz to explore "the sacrament of baptism.")*

WE ENGAGE

The Story of Jesus' Baptism and Call to Ministry

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil.

Remembering Our Baptism

Word of Introduction

Song 354

God, When I Came into This Life (v. 1)

Fred Kaan/Land of Rest

My Story of Baptism

Song 354

God, When I Came into This Life (v. 2)

David Feldt

Fred Kaan/Land of Rest

Silence

My Story of Baptism

Song 354

God, When I Came into This Life (v. 3)

Dana Bender

Fred Kaan/Land of Rest

Silence

My Story of Baptism

Silence

Song 354

God, When I Came into This Life (vs. 4-5)

Chris Palkowski

Fred Kaan/Land of Rest

WE SHARE AND RECEIVE

Prayers for a Baptized Life and the Lord's Prayer

O Fount of every blessing,
we give you thanks for drawing creation from the well of your goodness,
and for pouring out your love on all who thirst for good news.

We confess that we are thirsty, too, and we long to drink deeply.
Hear our prayers for your waters of new life.

(A time of silent prayer)

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.
Hear our prayers for your waters of new life.

(A time of silent prayer)

Hear also our prayers for your people—the loved ones we hold in our hearts
and our neighbors and kindred in the whole human family.

(You are invited to name aloud the names of people or places.)

Bless by your Word and Spirit all the waters of this world—
and bless us with the wisdom and commitment to use and share the gift of your waters so
all might be blessed with their life-giving power.

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 as he taught, with boldness, courage, and trust, saying:

(We conclude with the Lord's Prayer. Please pray a version familiar to you.)

Sharing Our Abundance

Offertory

Wade in the Water

African American/arr. Mark Hayes

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO IN PEACE

*Hymn

Creating God (vs. 1-3)

Jeffrey Rowthorn/Truro



1. Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de - signs of fur - thest space;
2. Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - teries known or yet un - told;
3. Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now op - pressed for creed or race;
4. In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - ily of a bil - lion names;



Let sun and moon and stars and light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
Let wa - ter's fra - gile blend with air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care!
Let peace, de - scend - ing as the dove, an - nounce on earth your heal - ing love.
Let ev - ry life be touched by grace un - til we praise you face to face.

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*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Creating God (v. 4)

Jeffrey Rowthorn/Truro

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!

We're glad you're here! Your presence enriches worship for all of us. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing Leadership in Worship Today Are . . .

Worship Leader Karen Wilbanks, Michelle Schumann, Music Director/Pianist; Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministry; Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; Dave Feld and Chris Palkowski, Liturgists; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator, assisted by Sam Elkind and Frank Wilbanks. You were welcomed by Louise Cavatta, Tom Stewart, Diane Darby, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

In Kids United today we'll explore the sacrament of baptism. What is it? Why do we do it?

Confirmation/Initiates Class Today in Youth Room includes finding a Bible verse of significance to memorize and recite. Mentor Leaders will be joining us.

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

Today's Forum – 11:15 in the Learning Center

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

Talitha Arnold is away through Tuesday, January 20. Should a pastoral emergency arise, please call the church office (505-988-3295) or the Caregiver on Call (Dave Wilkison, 505-400-0504).

Next Sunday, we welcome Rev. Ben Larzelere as our guest preacher for Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday. Ben and his wife Bev have been good friends of the United Church community through the years he served Christ Lutheran Church. Following his retirement, they joined United and we have been blessed by their presence.

COMING UP THIS WEEK. . .

Wednesday: Pretty Good Guys – 10:00 am

Discussion of John Collins' *What Are Biblical Values?* Copies of introduction in Community Room. All welcome!

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Wednesday, 7:00 pm

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

Next Sunday – 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.

AND 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)

United's Shelter Supper Ministries

Help provide supper for guests of St. Elizabeth and Casa Familia Family Shelters by volunteering (sign up today!) or supporting financially with an online donation or check (memo: shelter meals). **Before this Friday, Jan. 23**, make meatloaf at home, put in church freezer (8 needed); **Fri., Jan. 23 – Chop & Grate (9:30 am)** at United; **Fri., Jan. 23 – Deliver food to shelters (1:00 pm)**. Please contact the office (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com) for more information. Thank you!

Save the Date! Family Friday Fun Night – Friday, January 23, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

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! Please sign up today!

FebFest 2026 – Celebration of African American Sacred Music

Saturday, January 31: Choral Workshop with Dr. G. Phillip Shoultz, III 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 Shoultz. All day choral workshop with Dr. Shoultz (and United pianist Michelle Schumann) for singers of all backgrounds on Saturday, Jan. 31. On Sunday, Feb. 1, Dr. Shoultz directs the FebFest Choir in a free concert at St. Francis Cathedral. Dr. Shoultz is also our guest in Sunday worship. To register as a singer for the Saturday workshop and Sunday concert, please go to abqcorolux.org. Also, the Sunday afternoon concert 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.