

Benedicto

May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome,
dangerous, leading to the most amazing view.
May your rivers flow without end,
meandering through pastoral valleys tinkling with bells,
past temples and castles and poets' towers
into a dark primeval forest
where tigers roar and monkeys howl,
through miasmal and mysterious swamps
and down into a desert of red rock,
blue mesas, domes and pinnacles
and grottos of endless stone,
and down again into a deep vast ancient unknown chasm
where bars of sunlight blaze on profiled cliffs,
where deer walk across white sand beaches,
where storms come and go
as lightning clangs upon the high crags,
where something strange and more beautiful
and more full of wonder
than your deepest dreams waits for you –
beyond that next turning of the canyon walls.

Edward Abbey

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for
THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
and
BLESSINGS FOR THE JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD**

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

**October 19, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

For Reflection as the Youth Initiate/Confirmants start their journey. . .

Twasn't me, 'twas the Lord! I always told God, 'I trust you. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect You to lead me,' an' the Lord always did.

Harriet Tubman (1822 – 1913)

Conductor on the Underground Railroad, Abolitionist, and Social Activist

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We're glad you joined in this special service that includes "Blessing for the Journey" for our Youth Initiate/Confirmants as they grow toward adulthood. The Blessing begins as the young people come to the front of the Sanctuary with their Parents and families for the Family Blessing. They are then welcomed by their Mentors and sit together through the end of the service. The Parents and families return to their seats as they also enter a new phase of their lives. At the end of the service, the Initiate/Confirmants, Mentors, and Leaders receive a special blessing and the laying on of hands from the Church Council. Over this year, the youth will explore the challenges and opportunities of adulthood and adult faith. At the end of this time, they will be initiated into adult life and, for those who choose, be invited to confirm their faith and join the church.

"Kids United" for younger children through 3rd grade is offered after the hymn of praise.

Please hold the Youth Initiate/Confirmants, their parents and families, leaders, and mentors in your thoughts and prayers this day and over this coming year. Again, welcome! We are glad you are here.

Gathering Music

Prelude in D-flat Major, Op. 28, No. 15 ("Raindrop")

Frédéric Chopin

*Introit

Christ, Be Our Light (2x)

Bernadette Farrell

(Please rise in body and spirit.)



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the dark-ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church, gath-ered to - day.

Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

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

*Sharing God's Peace and Regathering

Christ, Be Our Light (1x)

Bernadette Farrell

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

We Are Trav'lers on a Journey

Craig Courtney

Call to Worship (congregation in bold)

Praise God, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair. *¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!*

¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!

Praise God, who gathers up fragments of our lives and creates new possibilities.

¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!

Praise God, who laid the foundation of the earth and all the children of God shouted for joy!

¡Alabamos a Dios, quien da vida!

People of God, come. Shout for joy and sing your praise to God.

*Hymn

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Now in the Days of Youth (1-3)

Diademata

WE PREPARE

*In a Prayer of Preparation (congregation in bold)

Gracious God, we, your hopeful people, wait now before you.

We would be still.

We would listen for your word speaking in our hearts.

Instruct, inspire, and re-form us.

We pray, by the moving of your Spirit,

that we might worship you with gladness and follow your way with zest.

Reclaim that which we have caused to go awry,

rescue that which we have put out of place,

forgive that which is amiss,

and set us again to our ministries with passionate faith,

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*In a Time of Silent Prayer

*In the Affirmation of God's Grace

*In Our Song of Praise

Praise to the Living God

Diademata

*Praise to the living God, around, within above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.*

WE BEAR WITNESS

Blessings for the Journey

Words of Introduction

The Invitation to the Journey to Adulthood

A Blessing from the Parents

(The names of the Initiate Confirmands are called out as they and their parents come forward for a time of blessing and the start of their new journeys. The parents return to their seats. The Initiate/Confirmands are welcomed by the leaders and mentors and led to a new place.)

The Promise of God's Presence

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I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

John Ylvisaker

(On the last stanza, children through 3rd grade are invited to Kids United.)

WE ENGAGE

A Story of Persistence

Luke 18:1-7

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while the judge refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to those who cry to God day and night? Will the Lord delay long in helping them?"

Musical Response

Teach Me, O Lord

Thomas Attwood

The Sermon

Keep at It

A Time of Silent Reflection

Musical Reflection 419

Now Thank We All Our God (1-3)

Martin Rinkart/Nun Danket

WE RESPOND

Presenting Our Offering

Offertory

Für Elise

Ludwig van Beethoven

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Old Hundredth

*Praise God from who all blessings flow! Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

A Time of Blessing

Questions for the Journey

Of the Parents

Of the Youth Initiate Confirmands

*Of the Council and Congregation

*The Laying on of Hands and Blessing by the Church Council with a Prayer of Blessing and the Lord's Prayer

Pour out your Spirit, O God, upon these Initiate Confirmands that they might be awakened to new truth and venture safely into new life. Help them to live not for themselves alone, but for you and for this world that you love. Pour out that same Spirit upon all in this congregation. Give us the wisdom, patience, and courage we need to guide these young people in their journeys. Help the Initiates, their parents, mentors, and leaders to know they are held in your care and in prayers of this community. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and ministry of the church, serving your world, and rejoicing in your presence in our lives.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ, who showed us your ways of love and life and who taught us to pray to you with boldness, courage, and trust, saying... *(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.)*

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn

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Arise, Your Light Is Come

Festal Song

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison (3x)

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory.

“BLESSINGS FOR THE JOURNEY” . . .

is the symbolic moment in which the United Church recognizes the start of our Youth Initiate Confirmands “Journey to Adulthood” and offer our blessing and commitment to the youth and their parents. Please keep the following Initiate Confirmands, Parents, Mentors, and Leaders in your prayers today and throughout the year ahead:

Initiate Confirmand

Bailey Gordon

Weston Puglisi

Sasha Smucker

Bonnie Bannerman

Jack Smucker

Parents

Angela and Will Gordon

Alicia Wolfe and Charles Puglisi

Jessica and Phil Smucker

Kim and Ian Bannerman

Jessica and Phil Smucker

The Initiation Confirmation program is led by United's Director of Family Ministry Dana Bender, with leaders and/or mentors John and Laura Johnson, Sheree Whitney, Melanie Lohmann, and Bruce Turnquist.

Also sharing leadership in this morning's service are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Dana Bender, Family Ministry Director; Jacquelyn Helin, Guest Pianist; Javier Ortiz, Guest Conductor; the United Choir; Sam Elkind, Church Moderator; Sasha Smucker, Liturgist; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. You were welcomed by Louise Cavatta, Rosemary Thompson, Blanca Surgeon, Pam Hyde, and Sunday Aide Alice Medina.

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We hope you'll also join in the fellowship time after the service. If you're visiting today, we're glad you're here! If you're visiting United, we invite to fill out the yellow "visitors card." That helps be a more welcoming congregation – and we promise not to inundate you with emails ☺. Again, welcome!

TODAY AT UNITED

Kids United, (through 3rd grade) with Children's Ministry Aides Maria Navarrete and Destiny Muñoz, make a "Love Your Neighbor" craft and harvest the remaining veggies from the Children's Garden. All welcome!

What's Been Our Journey? – Today's Forum

United's youth aren't the only people on a journey of faith and life. All of us are! In today's Forum, we'll think about our own journeys, using the story of Abraham and Sarah as our guide. Have we ever been called to a new and unknown place? Where did we stop to give thanks? What were our mountaintop experiences—and what were the valleys of the shadows? It's a great opportunity to reflect on our journeys of faith—and also learn from others. All welcome!

NEXT SUNDAY IS REFORMATION SUNDAY – WEAR RED!

It's Also Bible Sunday – October 26!

If you have a child, age birth through 8th grade, United is giving them a Bible as a gift from the church! Age-appropriate Bibles and special blessings for children and parents will be offered during the 10:00 service. Let Family Ministry Director Dana Bender know if you and your children will be here next Sunday!

Interfaith Community Shelter is now Interfaith Community Services

Next Sunday's Adult Forum

The United Church of Santa Fe has been a part of the Interfaith Shelter since its beginning. With the advent of the Agape House (part of Urban Alchemy), what role does the Interfaith Community have? Quite a lot! It still provides the mobile shower unit ("Showers to Go"), the Community Clothes Closet, and sack lunches. Board Chair Kent Grubbs and others will offer an update on the work – and how United members and friends continue to support this life-giving work.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Pretty Good Guys Finishes *Four Vision Quests of Jesus*

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 10:30 to 12:00

"The Four Vision Quests of Jesus" by Steven Charleston comes to its conclusion and we'll chose a new book. Come join the conversation. All men welcome!

Resiliency and Hope: REVELATION Study – Thursday, Oct. 23 at 8:00 am (via Zoom)

People tune in from around the country. You're invited, too. Contact unitedchurchsf@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Multiple Ministry Opportunities

As we look to United's future, put some prayer around ways you can help strengthen our community and ministries. Here are some ideas...

- **Congregational Care Team:** notes and cards to members and friends facing hard times and those celebrating good times; providing simple meals; visiting or calling those who are homebound; etc.
- **Liaison with United's Outreach Partners:** Whether with SF Habitat for Humanity, Communities in Schools, The Food Depot, The SF Watershed Association, or other organizations with which United partners, it would be great to have United liaisons to keep the rest of the congregation informed and connected.

Interested in any of the above? Let Talitha Arnold, Lin Raymond, or Moderator Sam Elkind know. Thank you!

Santa Fe Faith Coalition for Immigration – Donations Needed

The United Church is part of the new "Santa Fe Faith Coalition for Immigration" to support our community's immigrants. United's Immigration & Refugee Task Force invites you to join in collecting items—**infant and toddler diapers, baby wipes, hygiene supplies: shampoo, soap, deodorant (small or regular sizes)**—for the Santa Fe Welcome Center run by Las Cumbres for Moms and Babies. Drop boxes are in the Community Room. Thank you in advance!

Archbishop John Wester's Nuclear Pilgrimage

Monday, October 27 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Santa Maria de la Paz

Archbishop Wester will prayerfully share with us his journey to Japan in August to remember the 80th anniversaries of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Please mark your calendars and consider coming to listen to the Archbishop's stories about this painful pilgrimage. Talitha Arnold has been invited to offer the opening and closing prayers.

Autumn Book Study – *For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional*

Starts Wednesday—Oct. 29 (5:30 - 6:45 pm) through Nov. 19

Share in the reading and discussion of this challenging, comforting, and accessible book that can strengthen our own Christian response to our time. Princeton Seminary theologian Hanna Reichel offers meditations on scripture, reflections on historical

precedents, and portraits of those who resisted oppression. Community Room. Copies of the first chapter available in Community Room. Books for purchase at church. Joan Snider (Adult Education chair) or Talitha Arnold.

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle!

Reunity Resources transforms compostable products (food waste, etc.) into life-giving compost. Free compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please). Fill at home, then put in green bin at church's back gate. Thanks!

Offset Your Carbon Use & Care for Creation

United's "Carbon Offset Program" helps plant trees and change policies to address climate change. It's simple to do: track your car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to support *Tree New Mexico's* hands-on tree planting and *NM Interfaith Power and Light's* advocacy. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

**All Church Burrito Brunch
Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 16, after BOTH Services
Save the Date!**

Through our United community, God feeds us in a multitude of ways—a caring community in times of need, programs for all generations, a beautiful worship space, hopeful words of courage and peace, music that sings our souls, and opportunities to serve our neighbors and love God's creation.

On Stewardship Sunday, November 16, after both the 8:30 and 10:00 services, you're invited to feast on both food and fellowship, as we share a Breakfast Burrito Brunch and also time with one another in the United community. It's also an opportunity to make our pledges of financial commitment for the coming year. More details later—but save the date Sunday, November 16—thank you!