

A FIESTA OF SONG, WORD, AND SACRAMENT
for
FIESTA SUNDAY

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

September 10, 2023
10:00 A.M.

For Reflection

This is what God's kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table,
not because they are rich or worthy or good,
but because they are hungry, because they said yes.
And there's always room for more.

So the church is God saying: "I'm throwing a banquet,
and all these mismatched, messed-up people are invited.
Here, have some wine."

Rachel Held Evans, *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church*

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

*Introit

Heleluyan (2x)

Muskogee Native American

(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan;
he - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.

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Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

Breathing in and Sharing God's Gifts

Blessings for this Blessed Day!

Sharing God's Peace and Regathering

Heleluyan (1x)

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

Pues si vivimos (In all our living)

Mexican Traditional/arr. M. Haugen

A Call to Worship (**congregation in bold**)

Sing praise to God, for God is good!

Gracias por la vida!

Give thanks for friends and family, for church homes and all the ways God loves us.

Gracias por la vida!

Give thanks for food, for bread and wine, and for all the ways God feeds us.

Gracias por la vida!

Give thanks for all of life!

Gracias por la vida!

*Hymn

41

I Thank You, Jesus

Kenneth Morris

WE PREPARE

A Ukrainian Call to Prayer

Kyrie Eleison (3x)

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant



A Prayer of Invocation

God of grace, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness,
**you have brought us forth from the womb of your being
and breathed into us the breath of life.**

We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from you.
**Feed our deep hungers with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ.
May Jesus' promise, "Where two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I in the midst of them," be fulfilled in us.**

Make us a joyful company of your people
**so that with the faithful in every place and time we may praise
and honor you, God Most High. Amen.**

A Time of Silent Prayer

The Affirmation of God's Presence and Grace

*Our Song of Praise

Santo, Santo, Santo

Anon. Argentina

*Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora!
Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Dios.*

*Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: "You are holy, God."*

WE ENGAGE

The Story of a Fast Feast

Exodus 12:1-14 (cond.)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one. . . . This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord . . . This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

A Fiesta (feast) of Song

Called to the Fiesta

Come, All You People

Uyai Mose, Zimbabwe

(Choir sings once, congregation joins in second time.)

*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.*

Our Response 349

I Come with Joy (1-3)

Southern Harmony

The Ways God Feeds Us 496

Ekolu Mea Nui

David Nawahine, Maui

(choir sing st. 1, cong. joins in repeat)

Sending Out 81

God Be with You (1-2)

Jeremiah Rankin/William G. Tomer

A Time of Silent Reflection

Final Musical Reflection

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold Friedell

WE RECEIVE AND RESPOND

Sharing the Sacrament of Communion

The Story of this Feast

The Invitation to the Table

Esta es la fiesta alegre (the joyful feast) of the People of God!

¡Gracias a Dios!

Come from *el norte y el sur*, the east and the west and gather at the table of the Lord!

¡Gracias a Dios!

You who *tienes hambre* (have hunger) can be filled. You who *habéis llorado* (have mourned) can be comforted. You who *tienes miedo* (have fear) can have courage.

¡Gracias a Dios!

Así que toma este pan y bebe de esta copa. Let God feed you. Let God *te ame* (love you).

¡Gracias a Dios!

Hermanos y hermanas, let us come to this table in joy and rejoicing. *Esta comida* (This meal) is offered for you and me that we might again know that *en Jesucristo*, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering *pecado y muerte* (sin and death) and reconciling *toda la creación* to the Creator. May *este pan y esta copa* be signs of that new life to us.

¡Gracias a Dios!

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

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

(All are welcome to share in Communion. As your section is called, please come down the designated aisle, hold your palm flat to receive the bread, take the cup, and return to your seat by the next aisle. For a non-gluten wafer, please let the server know. Again, all are welcome!)

Communion Hymns (to sing as the congregation comes forward)

332	<i>As We Gather at Your Table</i>	Beach Spring
341	<i>Great Spirit God</i> (Soloist sings st.1, congregation sings 2 and 5)	Lakota
347	<i>Let Us Talents and Tongues</i> (1-2)	Jamaican

Our Prayer of Thanksgiving

Life-giving God, we give you thanks for the gifts of this *fiesta*—*el pan, la copa, the bread, the cup, el amor de Cristo*, and communion with you. Through these gifts, you feed us with your presence and fill our hearts with your hope and justice. Through these gifts, you bind us together and strengthen us for our ministries. Send us now into your world with your blessing that our lives might bless the lives of others. We pray in your name. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn	402	<i>De colores</i> (1 st Spanish, 1 st English)	Mexican Folk Song
*Benediction			
*Musical Benediction	402	<i>De colores</i> (2 nd English)	Mexican Folk Song

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! Please take a moment to sign the guest register, too. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Dr. Jessie Lo, Pianist; the United Choir; soloists Quiara Cortez and Rebecca Brunette; Eloise Benham, William Benham, and Blanca Surgeon, Liturgists; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. You were welcomed by Trudy Swint, Pam Hyde, Marilyn Gardner and Katherine Freeman. Luis Zapata is the Sunday Aide.

Fiesta Sunday All Church Burrito Brunch! – Today

What better way to celebrate Fiesta Sunday than a Burrito Brunch with your church community? Stay after the 10:00 service and share the fellowship, along with burritos, fruit, and dessert! All welcome! (even if you hadn't signed up :-)

United's Children

*Love God, Neighbor, and Creation
and also take a Journey of Faith!*

**Sunday Mornings during 10:00 Worship
Starts Next Sunday**

This fall, United's Children will take an amazing journey with Moses, Miriam, and a whole lot of other people. It's called the Exodus—the Israelites' long-ago journey through the desert wilderness that taught them how to love God, Neighbor and Creation. They'll also learn hands-on ways to show that love in our time, from decorating cookies for our neighbors at the Arroyo Chamiso Fire Station to harvesting food for Casa Familia to writing cards for our neighbors at the Mexico/U.S. border. This fall, United's children (through 5th grade) learn new ways to “love God, Neighbor, and Creation.” All welcome—and bring friends!

Will You Pray for a Child?

Would you like to be paired with a child in our congregation and praying for the young one every day? All that is asked of the adult is to remember the child in prayer daily. It's as simple as that! Please sign up in the Community Room. Questions? Please contact Talitha Arnold (505-988-3295). We'll start the program in mid-September. Thanks!

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!

Pretty Good Guys Read “Bad Boys of the Bible” Wednesday, 10:30 am

Join with other United men the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month to engage “Bad Boys of the Bible,” brief reflections on Biblical men and what we learn from their stories. This week's focus is Samson. Books (\$15) in Community Room.

Sanctuary Choir has Started!

Rehearsal This Wednesday, Sept. 6 (7:00 pm)

The Sanctuary Choir has started its regular rehearsal schedule: Wednesday rehearsal at 7:00 pm; sing in the Sunday 10:00 service. All welcome! Interested in joining? Contact Director of Music Brad Ellingboe: unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com.

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

(but not this Thursday due to another meeting :-)

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

Adult Forum: What Do Families Need? September 17 (11:15 am)

The pandemic has taken a tremendous toll on families. As we emerge into its aftermath, what do parents need to help their children find hope and resilience? What do they need in their own lives from the church? If you're a parent, come and share your thoughts. If you're past parenting, come to listen.

Adult Forum: What's Happening in School? (and how can United be supportive?) – September 24 (11:15 am)

We welcome educators from the United congregation to share their experiences and perspectives on the hopes they have and the challenges they face.

Summer Drive for the Food Depot

If you have a home garden, bring extra produce to United. Or bring cans/boxes of vegetables/fruit, pasta, rice; family-size packages of high-protein foods (beans, canned meats, soups); baby foods (powdered formula, cereal, jars); diapers. Monetary donations welcome: check (memo “Food Depot”) or online (unitedchurchofsantafe.org). Thank you!

United Church Supports Hawai'ian Fire Relief

Many of the communities affected have historic Congregational (United Church of Christ) churches. Most of their members are indigenous Hawai'ians and many have lost everything, including family and friends, in the fires. The congregations not impacted by the fires are sheltering both people and livestock from around the islands, regardless of any church affiliation. United invites your donations (by check, memo: “Hawai'i Fire Relief”; online: unitedchurchofsantafe.org;) to be sent to the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you.

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!

United's Immigration & Refugee Task Force Welcomes You!

We engage our United community in advocacy, education, policy work, and direct support for refugees and immigrants around the world, at the U.S./Mexico border, and in Santa Fe. The commitment is a monthly meeting (2nd Tuesday), plus attending Immigration and Refugee Forums and/or sponsored events (Advocacy Day, United We Run, etc.). Interested? Please contact Avril Ekstrand (505-490-8164, avrilekstrand@yahoo.com).

Santa Fe Cielo Azul Park Tree Planting Saturday, Sept. 30, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Desert-adapted trees are the single most effective and least expensive way to capture carbon and combat climate change. Lend a hand on Saturday, Sept. 30 when *Tree New Mexico* plants trees in Cielo Azul Park (Agua Fria). The planting workshop is led by trained personnel who provide education in the process. The holes are dug prior to the event. It's a fine community event and a great community cause. For info and to register, email Special Projects Program Director Betta Eisenberg (betta@treenm.org).

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.

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!

Memorial Service for Betty Bordner Saturday, Sept. 23, 10:00 am

The United community is invited to a memorial service to give thanks for the life of United member Betty Bordner and to commit her soul to God's care and keeping.