

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE  
A United Church of Christ

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 12, 2026  
10:00 A.M.

*For Reflection:*

We normally think of history as one catastrophe after another, war followed by war, outrage by outrage—almost as if history were nothing more than all the narratives of human pain, assembled in sequence... but history is also the narratives of grace, the recountings of those blessed and inexplicable moments when someone did something for someone else, saved a life, bestowed a gift, gave something beyond what was required circumstance.

Thomas Cahill, *The Gift of the Jews*

WE GATHER

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

Prelude

*Now the Green Blade Riseth*  
*Ode to Joy*

arr. C. Scott Hager  
Ludwig van Beethoven

\*Introit

*Goodness Is Stronger than Evil* (2x) Archbishop Desmond Tutu/John Bell  
(\*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than hate;  
light is strong-er than dark - ness; life is strong-er than death.  
Vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours through God who loves us.  
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Welcome and Sharing of Our Life and Ministry

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

\*Sharing the Gifts and Regathering *Goodness Is Stronger than Evil* (1x) Tutu/Bell

The Welcoming of Visitors and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship *St. Kevin* Arthur S. Sullivan

The Call to Worship from the Prophet Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

**and the desert shall rejoice and blossom!**

Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

**And the desert shall rejoice and blossom!**

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped,  
then shall the lame leap like the deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

**And the desert shall rejoice and blossom!**

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing.

**And the desert shall rejoice and blossom!**

Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**And the desert shall rejoice and blossom!**

**WE PREPARE**

\*In a Prayer of Invocation

**We praise you, O God, that by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have delivered us from the power of death, making us alive to serve you. Free us from pride of self that we may live in community with one another and with all your people. Free us from fear of principalities and powers of this world that we may live and speak with courage, guided by your Spirit. Keep us rooted and grounded in your love, and fill us with the power of your Spirit. Be glorified in our life together that all people might see your love and your hope in their lives. Amen.**

\*A Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of 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!*

*(During the hymn, children through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to the Nurture Center for stories and play time.)*

**WE ENGAGE**

A Story from the First Easter (cong. bold)

John 20:19-28

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear (of the religious leaders), Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." ....

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "**Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.**"

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "**My Lord and my God!**"

In Song 510

*Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You* (1-2, 4)

Quem Pastores

Seeing the Resurrection

First reflector

Louise Cavatta

Silence

Second reflector

Blanca Ortiz

Silence

Third reflector

Nyla Rasmussen

Silence

A Musical Affirmation

*Come, Thou Fount*

John Wyeth/arr. Stephen Mitton

**WE RESPOND AND RECEIVE**

Sharing Our Gifts

*Piano Trio in G: Andante*

Joseph Haydn

Prayer of Dedication

## Sharing the Gift of Communion

### The Story of this Feast

#### The Invitation

Brothers and sisters, God calls us to this table to share the bread and cup, signs of God's Resurrection and the power of God's love over the force of death. Therefore let us come to God's table, not because we must, **but because we may.**

Let us come, not because we are whole,

**but because in our incompleteness, we stand in need of God's mercy and assurance.**

Let us come not to make a statement or express an opinion,

**but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit.**

Let us come, my brothers and sisters, as we are. This meal is offered for you and me that we might again know that in Jesus Christ, our crucified and Risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death, and reconciling all creation to our Creator. May our hearts and minds be opened to know the Risen Christ in this bread, cup, and the world all around us.

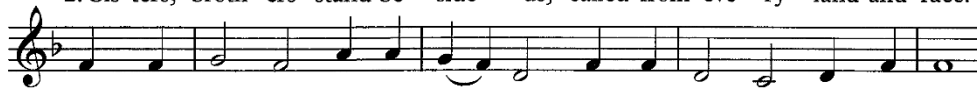
#### A Sung Prayer of Blessing

#### *Risen Lord, We Gather Round You*

Beach Spring



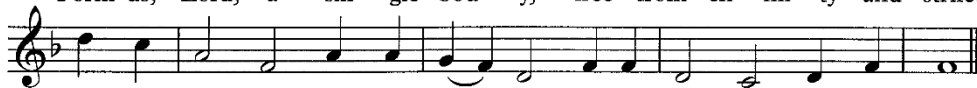
1. Ris-en Lord, we gath-er round you drawn by words for - ev - er new:  
2. Sis-ters, broth-ers stand be - side us, called from eve - ry land and race.



"Come, my peo - ple, all are wel - come; share the feast pre - pared for you!"  
One the Bread of Life that feeds us; one the Cup of brim - ming grace.



Emp - ty hands and hearts that hun - ger, Christ, we bring to you to - day.  
Form us, Lord, a sin - gle bod - y, free from en - mi - ty and strife.



Here you feed us with your Bod - y, gift of love for which we pray.  
Je - sus, by your res - ur - rec - tion, fill us with the Spir - it's life.

#### The Bread and The Cup

*(All are welcome to share in Communion. As your section is called, please come down the designated aisle, please come forward to receive the bread or a nongluten wafer. Then either dip the bread into the chalice or take one of the individual cups and return to your seat by the next aisle. Again, all are welcome!)*

#### A Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We thank you, God, for all your gifts of life. Strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another and all people. Most of all, give us the courage to trust your promise of Resurrection in our lives and the life of this world. Empowered by your Spirit, fed by your love, lead us from this service into your world and this Easter season to be the people of hope and strength you call us to be. Amen.**

### WE GO OUT IN PEACE

\*Hymn 273

*Praise with Joy the World's Creator*

Lauda Anima

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

*Kyrie eleison*

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

*Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

**Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory!**

### **WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!**

We're glad you've joined us for worship and hope you'll stay for fellowship time afterward. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

With the reflectors, sharing leadership are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Music Director and Pianist; Heather Lacy, Choral Scholar; Dana Bender, Family Minister; Livestream Volunteers Frank Wilbanks and Sam Elkind; Greeters Louise Cavatta, Tom Stewart, Rosemary Thompson, Pam Hyde, and Karen Wilbanks.

We are also blessed by the musical offerings of several United youth: Jace Gordon, guitar (accompanied by his mother Angela); Sasha Smucker, violin; and Jack Smucker, cello. Take time after the service to extend your thanks!

### ***Kids United***

Children 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up are invited to share in worship (either with their parents or in the Prayer Ground at the back of the Sanctuary.) Younger children through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to the Nurture Center for stories of the very First Easter (and some play time) with volunteer Tracy Church and Children's Ministry Assistants Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz.

### **Adult Forum: *ICE's Impact on Santa Fe Kids* Today (11:15 am)**

How has the presence of ICE in Santa Fe impacted children? Are kids afraid to come to school? Are parents afraid to go buy groceries? What can the United Church do to help? We welcome Blanca Ortiz, who grew up in Santa Fe and is now a caseworker for Nava Elementary with Communities in Schools, to share her experience and perspectives.

## **COMING UP THIS WEEK**

### ***KSFR (101.1 FM) Forum on Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) – Why is it still important?* Tomorrow (Monday, April 13)– 6:30 pm (also available in KSFR archives)**

Juan Dircie, of the Jewish Community Coalition of New Mexico, is interviewed by Talitha Arnold for KSFR's "Forum" about Tuesday's Yom HaShoah Commemoration at the New Mexico State Capitol. Why remember the Holocaust? What does such a commemoration mean in a time of war being waged by the U.S. and Israel? Hard questions. Tune in for an honest and heartfelt discussion.

### ***The Role of Faith Communities in Mental Health and Suicide Prevention* Zoom presentation this Tuesday (April 14) – 6:00 pm**

The **National Alliance on Mental Illness Santa Fe** (NAMI) hosts Rev. Talitha Arnold this Tuesday for *The Role of Faith Communities in Mental Health and Suicide Prevention*. Talitha is a founding member National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, with presentations to diverse organizations (Saddleback Church, Muslim Mental Health Institute, etc.). Faith communities offer "protective factors" for fostering mental health and preventing suicide. How to build on that foundation? The presentation also includes important steps in helping someone in a mental crisis and the scriptural basis from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions for caring for individuals and families. All welcome. Register at [namisantafe.org](http://namisantafe.org).

## **THIS WEEK'S GROUPS**

### **Women's Study Group 2026-2027 Book Selection Wednesday (10:30 am)**

The women's group make their suggestions for the reading list for 2026-2027. For info: contact Cheryl Morton ([MomMorton@gmail.com](mailto:MomMorton@gmail.com)) or Jenn Wynne ([home@wynnes.us](mailto:home@wynnes.us)).

### **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Wednesday, 7:00 pm**

Wednesday rehearsals resume this week. For info: André García-Nuthmann ([unitedchurch.andregn@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.andregn@gmail.com)) or Michelle Schumann ([unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.michelle@gmail.com)).

### ***Resiliency and Hope: Unpacking the Gospel of John* Thursdays at 8:00 am – Zoom**

John's Gospel is beautiful, confusing, challenging, troubling, and head-scratching. All welcome to join in this in-depth study. (Please register at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com))

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **United Church Runs on Volunteers! – Adult Forum Next Sunday!**

Come to next Sunday's Forum and meet all the people (or at least many of them) who keep United's ministries going! (There'll be muffin:-)

### ***The Climate: Social, Material, Moral-Spiritual* April 26, May 3 and 10 with Larry Rasmussen**

More than the planet's material climate is changing. So, too, is the social and moral-spiritual context and climate. These three forums, led by Environmental Ethicist Larry Rasmussen (Professor Emeritus – Union Seminary), address where we are, how we got here, and what our constructive responses might be.

### **Youth Reach Out to Help at the Food Depot, Saturday April 25 (1:00-3:00 pm)**

Youth Confirmants/ Initiates volunteer at the Food Depot Saturday, April 25, from 1:00- 3:00 pm. Contact Family Ministries Director Dana Bender ([unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com)) for more information.

### **United Walking Group – Saturday, April 25 (10:00 am)**

Want to get outdoors and walk with a friendly bunch of people? We're offering an opportunity twice a month, beginning April 25 on the Rancho Viejo trails. This easy-to-moderate walk is a maximum of two miles on paved trails. For information, contact Barbara Christiano ([Figaro@wcvvt.com](mailto:Figaro@wcvvt.com), 802-793-3424) or Diane Darby ([ddarbysfnn@gmail.com](mailto:ddarbysfnn@gmail.com), 816-260-0127).

### **Santa Fe River Cleanup – Saturday, May 9 (8:30-10:00 am)**

Help care for a corner of Creation where Closson St. ends at the river. Donuts, coffee, trash bags provided. Wear a hat, sunscreen, gloves. Grabbers also helpful. Sign up today; call 505-988-3295, or email [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com). Thanks!