

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for
THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
and
BE THE ENERGY STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY!**

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

**November 16, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

God is already here.



For Reflection:

The Rose That Grew from Concrete

Did you hear about the rose that grew
from a crack in the concrete?
Proving nature's law is wrong it
learned to walk without having feet.
Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams,
it learned to breathe fresh air.
Long live the rose that grew from concrete
when no one else ever cared.

Tupac Shakur, age 20 (1971 - 1996)

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

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

Gathering Music

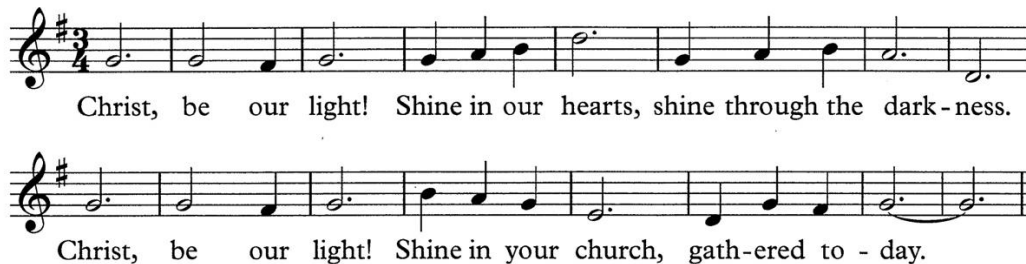
*Allegro from Sonata Op. 28
As the Deer*

Ludwig van Beethoven
M. Nystrom/arr. K. Medema

*Congregational Introit

Christ Be Our Light (2x)
*(*Please rise in body and spirit.)*

Bernadette Farrell



Blessing and Sharing of our Life and Ministry

“BE the Energy!” Campaign for United 2026

Leslie Fagre

*Sharing God's Blessings

“Blessings for this blessed day!”

*Regathering in Song

Christ Be Our Light (1x)

Farrell

Welcoming All and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

I Am Thankful

Angie Killian

The Call to Worship from The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

People of God, share God's good news:

**God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image,
and sets before us the ways of life and death.**

In Jesus Christ, the one of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,
**God had come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.**
God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.
God call us into the church,
**to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to serve God in serving the whole human family,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at Christ's table, to join in Christ's passion and victory.**
God promises to all who trust forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing,
and fullness of life in that realm which has no end.
**In gratitude we accept our call, praise God's holy name, and sing our praise.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God!**

*Hymn 8 *Praise to the Living God* (1-3) Curtis Beach/Diademata

WE PREPARE

Musical Call to Prayer *Behold, How Good* Michael John Trotta

A Prayer of Invocation

We praise and thank you, O God, that you are no statue made of gold or silver, but a living presence in our lives and through the life of this world. Give us the courage to trust you once again with our lives. Hear the confessions of our mouths and the yearnings of our hearts. Help us change the narrowness of our vision and the pettiness of our living. Make us new again with your holy grace. Free us from our fears and doubts and open us to the power of your Spirit. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Silent Prayer and the Assurance of God's Grace

*Hymn 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.*

(During the song, children through 5th grade are invited to "Kids United" in the Nurture Center with Family Ministry Director Dana Bender and Children's Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz to explore "loving creation" by making a take-home bird feeder.)

WE ENGAGE

God's Word through a Prophet Isaiah 65:17-25

[Hear the word of the Lord] For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in the holy city and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.	No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, . . . They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, . . . They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.
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Hymn 433 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* (1-2) Natalie Sleeth/Promise

The Sermon *Create a Rejoicing!*

A Time of Silent Reflection

Musical Response 433 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* (v. 3) Natalie Sleeth/Promise

WE RESPOND

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

Presenting Our Offering

Offertory

What Wondrous Love Is This

Southern Harmony

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.*

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn

Lord, You Give the Great Commission (Back page, 1-3)

Jeffery Rowthorn/Hyfydol

*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 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 you to fill out the yellow "visitors card." That helps us be a more welcoming congregation – and we promise not to inundate you with emails ☺. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership in this morning's service are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Dana Bender, Family Ministry Director; Children's Ensemble; Michelle Schumann, Music Director and Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; André García-Nuthmann, Choir Director; Rebecca Brunette, Soloist; the United Choir; Dana and David Cagle Liturgists; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. You were welcomed by Tom Stewart, Don Duncan, Diane Darby, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault.

TODAY AT UNITED

Kids United Learn about Loving Creation

Kids United (through 5th grade), with Family Minister Dana Bender and Children's Ministry Aides Maria Navarrete and Destiny Muñoz, explore "loving creation" by making a take-home bird feeder. All welcome!

BE THE ENERGY!

CAMPAIGN FOR UNITED 2026

(All Church Burrito Brunch TODAY!)

The Victory Goal for Campaign for United 2026 is \$625,000, with a Challenge Goal of \$635,000—and yes, it's a challenge, especially in a time such as this, given all the uncertainties about the future and the world in general.

But also – in a time such as ours – the witness and work of the United Church of Santa Fe is more important than ever. As a community that seeks to "love God by loving neighbor and creation," United makes a difference in the lives of those who come through the doors and those beyond the church walls. We provide a welcoming and safe community for children, youth, and families to learn about God's love and Jesus' ways of life. We seek to support parents and grandparents raising children in this challenging time.

So why such a challenging Stewardship Goal? Because . . .

- For the first time since 2017, we have a fulltime, full-year Director of Family Ministries!
- We want to make sure our building and grounds are fully insured.
- We also want to continue to attract high-quality staff.
- We don't want to use our reserves or additional endowment funds to balance the budget.
- We do want to deepen our commitment to outreach ministries—loving neighbor and loving Creation. That means more staff time and volunteer support.

As you make your **financial pledge** to United for 2026, prayerfully consider what the United Church means to you—and to others. Ask God for guidance in making your pledge—and then join with your United community to be God's hands, heart, and voice through your Stewardship commitment for United 2026.

BE the Hope, Love, and Energy God calls us to be!

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Jeffery Rowthorn, Hyfrydol



1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
2. Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap - tize and teach."
3. Lord, you show us love's true meas - ure: "Fa - ther, what they do for - give."
4. Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you to the end."



Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion and the gos - pel go un - heard,
That the world may trust your pro - mise, life a - bun - dant meant for each,
Yet we hoard as pri - vate treas - ure all that you so free - ly give.
Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing, may we serve as you in - tend,



help us wit - ness to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty;
give us all new fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty;
May your care and mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty;
and, a - mid the cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty;



with the Spir - it's gifts em - power us for the work of min - is - try.



MANY THANKS TO ALL HELPING IN THIS YEAR'S STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The list is long! Office volunteers (Maggie Popp, Sheree Whitney, Cathy Garrett, Cindi and Don Duncan); Sunday Speakers (Sam Elkind, Sarah Sawtell, Bob Ansheles, Joe Jones, Caroline Burnett, Karen Wilbanks Leslie Fagre); Parish Life Team led by Louise Cavatta; Brochure developer Dave Wilkison; Table Hosts; Office Administrator Lin Raymond, and all of you who are carefully praying, considering and making your pledge to support United's ministries for the coming year!

ALSO COMING UP THIS WEEK

Wednesday Women's Study Group – This Wednesday (10:00 to 11:30)

Nyla Rasmussen leads the discussion of *Ghost Soldiers: The Epic Account of World War II's Greatest Rescue Mission*, by Hampton Sides. All women welcome. Info: Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523); Jenn Wynne (817-219-0707).

***For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional* Concludes This Wednesday (5:30 - 6:45 pm)**

Theologian Hanna Reichel offers scripture meditations, reflections, and portraits of people of courage and integrity to guide our Christian response to the present moment. Sign up sheet and copies of the book in Community Room.

Talitha Arnold will be on the East Coast from this Tuesday through Friday, visiting former United members and also joining in the honoring of Jerry Henry (who has been United's Endowment Development Consultant since 2013) who is receiving the Yale Medal for his volunteer leadership with Yale University over the past 4 decades. If a pastoral need arises in Talitha's absence, please call the church office (505-988-3295) or the Caregiver on Call (Cindi Duncan, 505-982-0997).

Next Sunday is "Thanks-Singing" Sunday!

A great time to invite friends.

Kids United – Discovering Multiple Ways to "Love Our Neighbor"

Many thanks to all who contributed food to the Kids United food drive last week. On Tuesday, we donated over 200 pounds to the Food Depot!

Between now and December 14, we welcome your donations of travel-size shampoo, toothpaste, body wipes, toothbrushes, etc. to be assembled at the Advent Family Workshop.

Friday, December 5 (5:30 - 8 pm) Parent's Night Out "Christmas Shopping Edition" (or maybe just take a few hours to yourself). Drop the kiddos off at United for an evening of games, crafts, and food. Please contact Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com) or sign up at church to reserve a spot before Monday, December 1.

Sunday, December 14 (directly after the 10:00 service - 12:30): Advent Family Workshop – Activities include putting together hygiene packs for families in need, making a Christmas craft, and enjoying some holiday sweets.

United Church "love's God by loving neighbor and creation" in a host of ways.

Check out our Outreach Opportunities at unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

The Sanctuary Choir Welcomes You!

Like to sing? Like to sing with others? Then think about joining the choir. They rehearse Wednesdays, 7:00 to 9:00 pm and sing Sunday mornings in the 10:00 service (with a 9:00 rehearsal before the service). Please contact Choir Director André García-Nuthmann for more info (unitedchurch.andregn@gmail.com).

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.