Prayers for a Season of Eastertide . . .

For All People in All Places

God of the ages, be there for our children,
our elders, and everyone in between,
as you were for our ancestors,
a refuge and strength.
Help them to turn to You, O God,
for guidance during these troubled times.
Give them and us strength for the weeks ahead.
Be their Still Waters
when they are surrounded by fear and anxiety.
Be their Rock, to Whom they can turn
and give their worries and fears.

Be their Shelter.
Guide their steps
and keep them safe. Amen.

And Pentecost!

Lord, you give the Great Commission:
“Heal the sick and preach the word.”
Lest the Church neglect its mission
and the Gospel go unheard.
Help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity;
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring:
“I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend,
And, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity;
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Jeffery Rowthorn

And Graduations and the End of the School Year!

Gracious God, you are the One
in whom we live and move and have our being.
Draw near to all who seek to grow in faith.
Steadily increase in them
the desire to follow you,
courage to question you,
and willingness to learn from you. Amen.

The United Church of Christ Book of Worship

A Prayer for All God’s Children

God, help your child (name) to rest a while
in the cooling shade of your presence.
Slow down their restless heart,
and fill them with gentle compassion for all your people. Amen.
Dear Friends,

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for;
it is the conviction of things not seen.

Some 2,000 years ago, the unknown author of the “Letter to the Hebrews” (the 19th book of Christian scripture) penned that affirmation. Seventy years ago, Clarence Jordan, author of the “Cotton Patch Gospels” translated the line as “Faith is turning dreams into deeds; it is betting your life on unseen realities.” Jordan knew about that kind of faith. In 1942, three years after receiving his PhD in New Testament Greek, Jordan and his wife Florence Kroeger, left the academic world to start an interracial Christian farming community near Americus, Georgia. They turned the dream of racial justice and equality into the farm known as Koinonia (the early Christian word for community). They bet their lives, literally, on the unseen reality of people of different races being able and allowed to live together in the Jim Crow South.

In the 1950’s, Jordan also began a version of Christian scripture in modern English and changing the setting from 1st century Palestine to 20th century America. He wanted to translate not only the words, but the events and problems of that time, especially racism and violence.

The Koinonia community knew that violence first-hand. The interracial farm was the object of repeated bombings and arson attacks by its white neighbors. When Jordan appealed to then-President Eisenhower for federal protection, Eisenhower turned to the Governor of Georgia, an avowed segregationist. He in turn ordered an investigation not of the bombing suspects, but of Jordan and the Koinonia community as supposed Communists.

Despite the violence, the community persevered. The Jordans and others continued to bet their lives on the unseen reality of non-violence and racial understanding. Koinonia’s partnership model for addressing poverty and discrimination became the inspiration for Habitat for Humanity (but Clarence died at 57 of a heart attack before the first Habitat House was built).

Jordan’s subtitle for his Cotton Patch Letter to the Hebrews was A First-Century Manual for Church Renewal. Jordan knew, as the author of Hebrews knew, that the life of faith and of the faith community was always based on “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Whether in 1st century Palestine or the Deep South in the days of Jim Crow, the Christian faith demands that we “turn dreams into deeds and bet our lives on a future we can’t yet see.

That’s the work ahead of us. I hope you’ll join in.

Blessings,
Worship in May

The Questions of Easter
Worship in Eastertide
(The 50-Day Season after Easter)
Services offered both online and outdoors at 10:00 am.

The first Easter raised more questions than it answered. Easter still does. We’ll explore some of those questions as we move through Eastertide and into Pentecost (which raises even more questions!).

How Will They Know?
4th Sunday of Easter – April 25
“Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul,” proclaims the Acts of the Apostles, “and there was no one in need.” The new Christian community wasn’t focused on seeing the Risen Body, but on being the Risen Body, doing what he had done. They didn’t just proclaim God’s resurrection power. They became that power by offering new life to others. “and there was no one in need.” What would happen if we committed to that same goal?

Whose Life Is It?
5th Sunday of Easter – May 2
For the early Christians, another sign of God’s new life were the shepherds who gave their life for the sheep. (Psalm 23 and John 10:11-18) By the 5th Sunday of Easter, hopefully many of us will be vaccinated. What are we doing with the new life God is offering us? Asking ourselves that question is a good way to prepare for the Feast of Communion.

Who’s In? Who’s Out?
6th Sunday of Easter – May 9
“What is to prevent me from being baptized?” asked an Ethiopian of a Palestinian. (Acts 8:26-40). “Can anyone forbid water for these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” asked Peter. Questions about who was in and who was out bedeviled the early Christian church. They still can, whether it’s a question about a church or nation. A good inquiry on a day we welcome new members, new disciples.

What Have You to Do with Us?
7th Sunday of Easter – May 16
Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Sunday
“What have you to do with us?” a man with a mental illness cried to Jesus. (Mark 5:1-20) Quite a bit, actually. The stories of Jesus’ healing persons with mental health issues outnumber all other healing stories in the Gospels. The story raises other questions to consider on this Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Sunday. Why did the man have to live in the tombs, outside a city? (In our time, where can a person with mental illness find shelter?) Why did the townspeople want Jesus to leave their town? (Would we have the same response?)

New Members Welcomed – Sunday, May 9
We receive new members into the United Church community on Sunday, May 9—either virtually or as part of an outdoor service. If you would like to join United or get more information about membership, please contact Rev. Talitha Arnold at 988-3295 or unitedchurch.talitha@gmail.com. Thank you!

Who Are These People?!
Pentecost Sunday!
May 23 – Wear Red!
People talking in different languages, from different countries, races and backgrounds who could understand one another. No wonder everyone thought they were drunk or crazy. That’s Pentecost! (Acts 2:1-21) No predicting what can happen when people are filled with God’s Spirit—not then, not now.

Whom Shall I Send?
1st Sunday after Pentecost – May 30
The weird stories continue. This Sunday it’s about a man named Isaiah, minding his own business in the temple, when he begins to see and hear all kinds of things—seraphim, smoke, and the voice of God booming “Whom shall I send?” Whom indeed. (Isaiah 6:1-8)
Music Notes

Perhaps the most “spiritual” thing any of us can do is simply to look through our own eyes, see with the eyes of wholeness, and act with integrity and kindness.

Jon Kabat-Zinn

As we gather in Eastertide, we are excited to be coming back together for outdoor worship! United is blessed with its abundance of outdoor spaces, which means we can be creative with how we choose to gather. The music we are planning is music that will work in the outdoors—chimes, a cappella singing, flute and other wind instruments, violin and cello, and drums. We want to hear the musical voices of our young people, as well as our choral scholars and others from the community. Together let’s explore the new kinds of music which will enliven our outdoor worship!

Jacquelyn Helin
Music Director

Children’s & Youth Ministries

Special Events for Children and Young Adventurers
RSVP to Susan Greig
(unitedchurch.susan@gmail.com) (843) 540-1021
or Church (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

Flower Planting and Marshmallow Roast
Saturday, May 8 – 6:30 pm
All families invited to join in a special event the night before Mother’s Day. Each child has a chance to plant a flower to give their mom and/or grandmother, and then we’ll roast marshmallows! Friends welcome, too!

Help Start the Children’s Garden!
Sunday, May 16
during 10:00 Outdoor Worship
It’s time for spring-planting, and the Children’s Garden is waiting! Sunday, May 16, we’ll commission the children and their leaders at the start of worship to begin their garden and at the end of the service, we’ll all bless it. All kids welcome. To help us plan, please RSVP.

YOUTH INITIATES BRING WORSHIP TO OTHERS
This spring, the Youth Initiates are taking worship on the road. They meet at the church or around Santa Fe, walk to the homes of United members and friends, get acquainted, and then lead a brief worship service. A great way to share the love of God with others.

Characters Come Alive!

Weekly Children’s Worship Videos
Each week children, families, and grandparents receive a short Children’s Worship video featuring a Biblical character (and they were all characters!) like “Nicodemus at Night.” You can also share the videos with other families, parents or grandparents! If you or friends would like to receive the videos, please let us know! (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

Nicodemus

Disciple Andrew fishing in the acequia
Prayers of Thanks for:
> Everyone who made the journey of Holy Week and Easter such a powerful experience:
  - Sacred Space Team, arranging and adorning the Sanctuary;
  - Congregational Care Team and Communion Deliverers, taking Easter flowers and Easter Communion Bunnies to United members and friends all around Santa Fe;
  - Chair Ministers and Welcomers, who made sure there was room for everyone outside;
  - Musicians, who blessed us with their playing, singing, and composing;
  - Liturgists, who brought God’s word;
  - Office administrators for creating bulletins, emails, and other written materials to keep us connected;
  - Videographers and Editors who provided inspiration for adults, youth, and children;
  - United characters who portrayed Biblical characters;
  - Children and Youth Ministry staff and volunteers—and the kids themselves—for planting flowers, leading the Tenebrae, visiting persons who are shut-in, writing notes of care and encouragement;
  - And everyone who brought new life in so many ways to so many people!

Prayers of New Life for:
> August Hyun-Min Hay Pak, and his family (Linda Craig, Althea), celebrating his baptism on Easter!
> Finn, the new and first great-grandchild of Ben and Carolyn Whitehill!
> All students, teachers, administrators, and school staffs, in in-person or hybrid classes for the first time in a year.

Prayers of Healing and Hope for:
> David LaPlantz and his family after the loss of his sister Kathy in Ohio; the family and colleagues of Dr. Lynell Ragsdale, Dean of Faculty at Rice University, who died unexpectedly;
> Blanca Surgeon and her family, here in Santa Fe, as they all deal with the aftermath of Covid19, and for their family in Honduras, also living under the shadow of the virus; all affected by the coronavirus (including two friends of Jennifer Walters in Italy) and those who love and care for them; health care and grocery store workers, educators, and others on the front lines;
> Joanne Brown, preparing for cancer surgery in Arizona; Rev. Roger Knapp, preparing for biopsy; Shirley Clark and Rafaelita Bachicha, as Shirley starts cancer treatments and Rafaelita awaits a decision about heart surgery; Anna Spalding (Jody and Peter’s daughter in California), facing increasingly intensive cancer treatments; all other persons dealing with cancer and related illnesses, including Rev. Greg Gaertner, Bill Brown, Kate Filemyr, Mary (a friend of United), and others; and those with other chronic conditions;
> Peggy Feldt, undergoing jaw joint replacement surgery in late April;
> Those with memory loss and all who care for them;
> Cliff Beck, Sandy Vermillion, Hugo Steensma, Eric Manske’s father, Monsignor Jerome Martinez, and others living with neurological conditions; Ed Barker and others living with chronic pain;
> Individuals and families dealing with mental health issues, including severe depression. (If you, a family member, friend, or co-worker is struggling emotionally or having a hard time, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.)
> Persons who are imprisoned and those who love them;
> Persons at senior facilities (Yvonne Fairchild, Linda McDonald-Hummingbird, Bobbie Smith, Margo Clark, Linda Dillman, Helen Wagner, and others);
> Persons caring for family members, near and far: Dave Feldt, Rebecca Griego, DiAna Gutierrez, Sam and Molly Elkind, Lauren Smith, Pam Homer, Sherry Kelsey, Gloria and Terry Griffin, Sam Gerberding, and others;
> Families with extended families in other countries Blanca Surgeon and Zulema Zambrano (Honduras), Jan and Kitty Jansen (Netherlands), Johee and Lee Rand (Korea), Eva and Lenz Neuhauser (Austria); John Walker (Scotland), Avril and Jim Ekstrand (Ireland), and others;
> Immigrant children, teenagers, and adults fleeing violence and poverty, seeking refuge in our country; policymakers who determine their fate;
> Families and communities who lost loved ones in the mass shooting in Indianapolis; all victims of gun-violence;
> African American men, women and children, especially during the trial in Minneapolis;
> Military people and law enforcement officers, including those in our congregation;
> Prayers for an end to the pandemic.

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**Congregational Care for May**

On Call: John Shaffer  (505) 466-4372  
Food: June Yoder  (505) 503-0555  
Hospital: deferred due to pandemic

**Prayer Chain Keeps Others in Prayer**

United has an email prayer chain of people who have offered to hold others in prayer, particularly in difficult times. If you would like to be part of it, please let us know. (unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)
Outreach

Outreach Opportunities
(Please mail financial donations to United Church, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, SF, NM 87505 or make them online at unitedchurchofsantafe.org.)

- **United’s Shelter Meals for Persons Who Are Homeless:** United provides 100 Felipe’s lunches and 35 Mucho Gourmet suppers for Interfaith Shelter guests, and monthly dinners for Casa Familia (women/children) and St. Elizabeth’s Shelters (men). (Please memo: “Shelter Meals). Thank you!

- **Masks and Monetary Donations for Good Shepherd Church in Diné/Navajoland:** United sends financial support and masks to support our Diné sisters and brothers. Bring masks to the church and/or send your financial contribution via USPS or online (memo: Diné).

**Friday Dinners for Covid19 Unit Staff a Big Success!**
Thank you to Dr. Louise Abel and all the volunteers who provided homecooked dinner once a week for the medical staff of the Covid19 Unit. The number of patients is down to a handful, and so the dinners are no longer needed. Thank you!

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**Thank You for Letting Love Flow!**
**One Great Hour of Sharing Raises $4,030**
Many thanks to all who donated generously to this interfaith, international relief, refugee, and development offering. If you would like to make a donation, please go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

**Help Decrease Climate Change**
**Through United’s Carbon Offset Program**
Now that travel and even driving to work is starting again, keep track of your mileage and then make a donation to United that is passed on to two New Mexico groups that address climate change: NM Interfaith Power and Light and Tree New Mexico. For more information, please check United’s website (unitedchurchofsantafe.org). In 2020, $700 was donated to each organization. Thank you for your generosity! For more information, please speak with Larry Rasmussen or Talitha Arnold.

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**OUTREACH KUDOS AND THANK YOU’S**

From Pomona College Alums
News of United’s partnership with the Interfaith Shelter, Felipe’s Tacos, and Mucho Gourmet Sandwich Shop recently made the Pomona College (California) Alumni Facebook page. Here’s a sampling of responses:

- Thank you for your support of people who need it in these tough times.
- What a brilliant example of a caring, thoughtful and creative way forward.
- That’s faith in action! I’m thanking God for your work and congregation

Dear Rev. Arnold,
On behalf of the Santa Fe Branch of the NAACP, I would like to recognize the generous donation to our Moses Scholarship Fund and extend our gratitude.
We will be sure to notify you of the recipient(s) we select this coming year.

Bo Keppel
2nd V.P. Santa Fe Branch

Villa Therese Catholic Clinic
Dear Rev. Talitha Arnold,
Thank you for your generous gift of $1,000 to Villa Therese Catholic Clinic. Your kindness supported our Capital Campaign for construction of a new, larger, and more accessible health clinic for those most in need.

The Rev. Msgr. Jerome J. Martinez y Alire JCL
Capital Campaign Chair

Dear U.C.C. Friends,
Thank you so much for the lovely comforting cards and prayers for us and Chris’ family on the loss of our dear Christopher, “the Toph.” Your outreach and understanding are blessings that helped keep us going.

God bless you all, Ann and Ed Barker

The Garcias
Mindy, Sam, Jamie, and Gregory

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Dear All,
Thank you for all your do! And thanks to everyone who contributed to the beautiful services this Easter season. We enjoyed the sermons, music, art, photographs, seeing everyone, and we appreciated everyone’s efforts.

Thank you! Christ has Risen!

The Garcias
Mindy, Sam, Jamie, and Gregory
ADULT FAITH FORMATION IN EASTERTIDE
(online—please register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

Monday Morning Ministries: Faith at Work
Solace Crisis Educator Jess Clark
Tuesday, May 4, 7:00 pm (MDT)
Jess Clark is the Education and Prevention Manager for Santa Fe’s Solace Crisis Treatment Center. He’s also the grandson of Sharon Mecklem and a life-long member of United Church. Jess’ work focuses on increasing youth capacity to interrogate systems of oppression, exploring queer/trans masculinities as a site of violence prevention, and supporting organizations in better serving transgender communities through policies, best practices, and learning to be like his grandma. All welcome!

Report from the Border
Thursdays, May 13 and 27, 7:00 pm (MDT)
Rev. Randy Meyer is Senior Pastor of Buen Pastor/Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita, Arizona. He’s also a nationally known immigration advocate, with first-hand experience from 30 years of ministry along the Arizona/Sonora border. He’ll share up-to-date information about the current situation at the U.S./Mexico border, its roots in U.S. policy, colonialism, and climate change, and its human and environmental toll. He’ll also address what local churches like United can do. All welcome!

Women’s Study Group (via Zoom)
Wednesdays, May 5 and June 2, 10:00 am
All women are invited to join the final discussion of Migrating to Prison by César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández (May 5) and the 2021-2022 reading list planning session (June 5). Contact Ann Barker for information: 505-670-3383 (abarker2@comcast.net).

SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR MAY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH
(Please contact Talitha for registration: unitedchurch.talitha@gmail.com)

Interfaith Network on Mental Illness
Wednesday, May 5 (via Zoom)
10:00 am to 12:00 noon (MDT)
Keynote by Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas, International Mental Health Speaker/Author
Interfaith Panel Discussion, inc. Rev. Talitha Arnold
Role of Faith Communities in Suicide Prevention
Zoom Webinar
Thursday, May 13 (9:00 am – 1:00 pm MDT)
(sponsored by San Diego County, CA)
Keynote by Rev. Talitha Arnold
Presentations by Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist Faith Leaders
Spanish Interpretation offered.

Resiliency and Hope: New Life Ain’t Easy!
Thursdays at 8:00 am (via Zoom)
On Thursday mornings (via Zoom), explore the scripture stories for the upcoming Sunday—which focus on different aspects of the new life promised in Easter. Join in to deepen your faith and share the journey.
The United Church of Santa Fe invites you to join us as we grow in faith and hope. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, a progressive and inclusive Christian tradition whose roots are the Congregational and Reform Churches that historically emphasized freedom of thought and belief as well as a commitment to the community.

As Christians, we are many individual members, each with different gifts to offer and contributions to make. We are also one body in Christ, members of one another.

As an expression of the practice and conviction of this congregation, we declare ourselves to be an “open and affirming church,” welcoming people who share a faith journey with Christ and who share with us the covenant that binds us together regardless of age, gender, race and ethnic background, mental or physical disability, or sexual orientation. We welcome you!

Sunday Mornings at United Church (to be revealed)
Join us in weekly online worship via our webpage (unitedchurchofsantafe.org), on Facebook, or by writing unitedchurchsf@gmail.com and ask to be on our email list. Thank you!