

**A SERVICE OF WORD
for
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

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

**November 10, 2024
10:00 A.M.**

For Reflection:

Just to be is a blessing.
Just to live is holy.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel

WE GATHER

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

Gathering Music

*Introit

We Gather Together

*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Kremser

***We gather together to ask for God's blessing,
To turn to a wisdom surpassing our own.
The powers that oppress us, now cease to distress us,
O God, be present with us, and make your will known.***

Welcoming of Visitors and Sharing of Our Life Together

Blessed . . . to Be a Blessing! – Campaign for United 2025

Alicia Wolfe

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

Sharing God's Peace and Regathering

We Gather Together (1x)

Kremser

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medema

Call to Worship from Psalm 146

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

We will praise the Lord as long as we live;

We will sing praises to our God all life long.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Leah, Rachel, and Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

**The One who made heaven and earth,
the seas, and all that is in them;**

The One who keeps faith for ever;
**who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

**The Lord watches over the strangers;
God upholds the orphan and the widow,**

The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

*Hymn

12

I Sing the Mighty Power of God (1-2)

Isaac Watts/Ellacombe

WE PREPARE

*In a Prayer of Invocation and Thanks

Almighty God our Creator, your generous goodness comes new to us each day. We give you thanks for the blessings of the earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains and mesas, deserts and rivers, for the abundance of the land and the gathering of its fruits and for all the other blessings you bestow upon us. O God, you who are the giver of all good things, give us this day open hearts and gracious spirits that we might offer to others all the blessings you freely give. We pray in your name. Amen.

*A Time of Silent Prayer and Affirmation of Grace

*Our Song of Praise

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Isaac Watts/Ellacombe

*On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glories known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.*

(During the song, children are invited to Children's Ministry with Maria Navarette and Andrea Gonzalez.)

WE ENGAGE

From the Good News of Jesus Christ

Mark 12:38-44

As Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "Beware of the leaders, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Triologue Sermon

Blessed . . . to Be a Blessing!

Silent Reflection

Musical Response

Teach Us Wisdom

Ken Medema

WE RESPOND

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

O God:

Your holy word brings forth our human words.
You speak and there is creation – blue skies and dark earth,
the blessing of snow in a thirsty land,
and a world of wonder and enjoyment.

(silence)

**We speak and there is thanksgiving—
praise to you for your nature, gratitude for gifts to us,
adoration to you for your accessible holiness.**

(silence)

*You speak and there is redemption—
an invitation to confession, an assurance of forgiveness,
an offer of purpose, an incarnation of love.*

(silence)

**We speak and there is acceptance—
we unload our guilt with a sigh, grasp your forgiveness with delight,
unite with the incarnate Lord in commitment.**

(silence)

You speak and there is promise—
words of comfort for grief, a calming peace for anxiety,
hope to overcome despair, your presence for our loneliness.
(silence)

**We speak and there is faith—
commitment to walk everywhere, even through the deep shadows,
in your name, trust to take up the challenge of service,
participation to strengthen the community of faith called the church.**
(silence)

Your holy word brings forth our human words, O God.
Yours is the kingdom – ours, the service.
Yours is the power – ours, the trust.
Yours is the glory forever – ours, the joy of fellowship with you.
(silence)

We pray in the name of the Word who is both yours and ours—
Jesus the Christ—
who taught us to pray together with boldness, courage, and trust, saying...
(please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer)

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

- *Hymn *Tree Song* (insert) Ken Medema
*Benediction
*Musical Benediction Ken Medema

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning and invite you also to join in our weekday offerings and service opportunities. Again, welcome!

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!

Welcome Back to Composer, Pianist, and Singer Ken Medema!

For over four decades, Ken has inspired people through storytelling and music. Though blind from birth, Ken sees and hears with heart and mind. His ability to capture spirit in word and song is unparalleled. A native of Michigan, Ken has made music since he was five, “banging on the piano and making up crazy little fantasies.” At eight, his parents found a teacher who taught him the classics with Braille music and how to play by ear. Ken studied music therapy at Michigan State where he received both his Bachelors and Masters. While working as a music therapist with teenagers, he started writing songs about their lives, and then thought “why not write songs about your Christian life?” So he did—and then began a career as a performing and recording artist. In 1985, he founded Briar Patch Music, with an emphasis on spirituality and the universal concerns of peace, justice, and the environment.

Ken and United’s Director of Music Bradley Ellingboe have been friends and colleagues for many years, and we are grateful to Brad for helping bring Ken to United this weekend.

Ken and his wife Jane, married since 1965, have two children and four grandchildren. Beverly Vander Molen who travels with him has been manager and sound person for 36 years. With an ever-growing circle of friends around the world, Ken’s vocal and piano artistry and imagination have reached audiences of 50 to 50,000 people in 49 United States and in more than 15 countries on four continents. We are honored and blessed to welcome back both Ken and Bev to the United Church of Santa Fe!

Also sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; the United Choir; Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator. (Liturgists to be announced.) You were welcomed by Diane Darby, Dusty and Catherine Caruso, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Luis Zapata, Sunday Aide.

Today’s Adult Forum: *Continuing the Conversation with Ken* – (11:15 am in the Sanctuary)

Blessed . . . to Be a Blessing!

2025 Campaign for United

Ken Medema's music sings of God's beauty, grace, and care—God's abundant blessings, meant to be shared. That's the essence of Christian Stewardship. Today we invite your Stewardship Pledges for United's work in the coming year. Joined with the commitments of many others, your pledge funds everything from worship and music to our ministry with children and youth to pastoral care to care for the wider community and world. Your pledges also help keep the lights on and the building maintained :-)

Pledge cards and envelopes are available in the Community Room. So know you are blessed by God—then share those blessings by filling out a pledge card and leave in an offering plate. Thank you!

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!

Pretty Good Guys – This Wednesday, Nov. 13 (10:30 am)

The Pretty Good Guys welcome all men to join them in their exploration of Crossan's *The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Lord's Prayer*. (2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10:30 - 12:00)

Sanctuary Choir Welcomes You!

Rehearses Wednesdays (7:00 pm) and Sings Sunday (10:00 service)

Interested? Contact Director of Music Brad Ellingboe: unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com.

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

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

“Move Well, Move Often” – Thursday, Nov. 14, 10:00 am at United

Retired Physical Therapy Professor Margy Maira. Topics include:

1. Safe mobility information and strategies to improve one's mobility.
2. Chronic pain description and strategies to better manage chronic or persistent pain.
3. How to fit mobility equipment (aka assistive devices).

The session will be interactive so please wear comfortable clothing and supportive shoes. Sign up in Community Room.

Adult Forum Next Sunday: “To Seek Christ's Face” – Images of Jesus in Art Through the Ages

Part 3 – Christ on the Cross, Resurrected and Reformed

As United explores who Jesus was and is for us, join Molly Elkind for a four-week exploration of images of Jesus in art, from the days in the catacombs to the present. What can we learn from the ways in which Jesus has been and is today portrayed in visual terms?

Toiletries for Shelter Christmas Bags and “Socks-Giving” – Community Room Boxes for all items

Individual new toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush) for Christmas Bags the children assemble for St. Elizabeth Shelter guests (**No** mouthwash, medications, razors). Donate new pairs of warm socks for children, women, and men in SF Shelters.

Compassionate Christmas Gifts Market Starts Sunday, Dec. 1 through Dec. 15

In the true spirit of Christmas, give United's *Compassionate Christmas Gifts* that give hope, care, and joy all around the world. The market is after both the 8:30 and 10:00 services, Dec. 1, 8, and 15. Gifts include blankets for refugees, children's “comfort backpacks,” support for our neighbors working for peace in Palestine and Israel, and more. Watch for more info soon!

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!

HELP OUR FELLOWSHIP TIME BE ECO-FRIENDLY

Please join in the time for fellowship, coffee, and snacks after today's service. And when you're done, please put used cups and napkins in the compost bin in the Community Room. Thanks to Reunity Resources, they'll be turned into great compost.

MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP

***Rising Stars* – Santa Fe Youth Symphony Concert**

Next Sunday, Nov. 17 (12:00 noon) – Lensic Theater

Several United Youth play in various groups in the concert (Sasha Smucker—Mariachi Estrella; Luke Rand and Jack Smucker—Sierra String Quartet; Jaden Rand—Youth Symphony). Tickets: \$25 at The Santa Fe Symphony.

Handel's *Messiah*

Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus with guest soloists

Next Saturday, Nov. 16 (7:00 pm) and Sunday, Nov. 17 (4:00 pm) – Lensic Theater

Experience Georg Frederic Handel's masterpiece. United singers include Joan Snider, Elizabeth Roghair, and Talitha Arnold. Tickets and info: The Santa Fe Symphony.

Teach Us Wisdom

Words: paraphrase of quote by Baba Dioum
(Senegalese Environmental Leader) and Psalm 90:12
Music: Ken Medema, Cathy Chamblee

*We only conserve what we love.
We only love what we understand.
We only understand what we are taught.*

*So teach us to number our days
That we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

Blessed . . . To Be a Blessing!

Making a pledge to the United Church is an act of love—in a multitude of ways.

It's a way to show our **love for our neighbors** – whether those neighbors are the hardworking parents and their children in the congregation, our neighbors who are homebound, our neighbors at the Interfaith or Casa Familia shelters; our neighbors at the border; or our neighbors halfway around the world in Gaza and Ukraine.

Your pledge shows your **love for God's creation**, as it underwrites environmental ministries like Reunity Resources composting program or purchasing compostable paper goods, as well as adult education programs with our partners of New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light or Santa Fe Watershed.

Your pledge shows your love for **all the Santa Fe neighbors** who regularly use United's building, from the Interfaith Shelter Board to the Desert Chorale to the New Mexico Guild of Quilters. Your pledge helps our neighbors down Ojo Feliz or across Arroyo Chamiso experience God's love as they walk the paths around the church, sit in the Hozhoni Garden, or push their children in strollers through the pinon groves.

Finally, your pledge shows **your trust in God's love**--for this world, for all creation, for all neighbors . . . and for **you**.

Thank you for the love and the trust your pledge represents.

Most of all, thanks be to God.

Tree Song

Ken Medema



1. I saw a tree by the riv - er - side one day as I walked a - long,
2. I saw a tree in the win - ter - time when snow lay on the ground,
3. I was a tree in the ci - ty streets where build - ings blocked the sun,



Straight as an ar - row and point - ing to the sky, grow - ing tall and strong.
Straight as an ar - row and point - ing to the sky, and win - ter winds blew all a - round.
Green and love - ly, I could see it gave joy to ev - 'ry - one.



"How do you grow so tall and strong?" I said to the riv - er - side tree.
"How do you stay so tall and strong?" I said to the win - ter - time tree.
"How do you grow in the ci - ty streets?" I said to the down - town tree.



This is the song that my tree friend sang to me: I've got roots grow - ing down to the



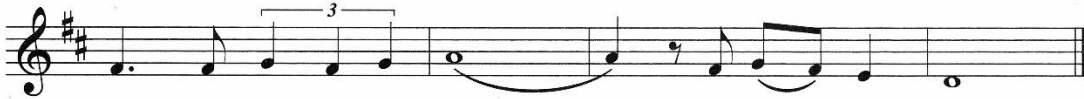
wa - ter, I've got leaves grow - ing up to the sun - shine, and the fruit that I bear is a



sign of the life in me. I am shade from the hot sum - mer sun - down, I am



nest for the birds of the hea - ven. I'm be - com - ing what the Lord of



Trees has meant me to be: A strong young tree.