

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
The Second Sunday of Epiphany
January 12, 2025

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE
A United Church of Christ

A Prayer for the New Year by Howard Thurman

Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.
There will be much to test me and make weak my strength before the year ends.
In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true
and do the thing of which I am ashamed.
There will be errors in the mind and great inaccuracies of judgment.
In seeking the light, I shall again and again find myself walking in the darkness.
I shall mistake my light for Your light,
and I shall drink from the responsibility of the choice I make...
Though my days be marked with failures, stumblings, fallings,
let my spirit be free so that You may take it
and redeem my moments in all the ways my needs reveal.
Give me the quiet assurance of Your Love and Presence.
Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.

WE GATHER

(May the Prelude be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship. Please silence your cellphone and/or watch.)

Gathering Music

Jeux d'eau
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Maurice Ravel
Nettleton

*Congregational Introit

Come All You People
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Alexander Gondo/Uyai Mose

***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.***

Come all you people, come and praise the Most High . . .

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Sharing of Our Lives and Breathing in God's Gifts

*A Song of Regathering

Come All You People (st. 1)

Uyai Mose

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

The Musical Call to Worship

I've Just Come from the Fountain

arr. David Cherwien

The Call to Worship

We gather to worship God, the Lord and Giver of Life.

God gives us the waters of new life.

In the deserts of our lives, in the wilderness within,

God gives us the waters of new life.

To give us hope when our lives run dry, to give us strength when our world seems barren,

God gives us the waters of new life.

To let peace flow like a river and love spring forth like a fountain,

God gives us the waters of new life.

To make justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a living stream,

God gives us the waters of new life.

To give us—and our world—a second chance and a new beginning,

God gives us the waters of new life.

Come, people of God. Open your lives to receive God's new life. Open your hearts to sing God's praise.

*Hymn

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Come, O Fount of Every Blessing (st. 1 & 2)

Nettleton

WE PREPARE

A Prayer for the New Year by Howard Thurman (see 1st page)

A Time of Silent Prayer

*The Affirmation of Grace and Song of Praise 459 *Come, O Fount* (st. 3) Nettleton
(During the hymn, children are invited to Children's Ministry. They return for Communion.)

WE ENGAGE

John the Baptizer and his cousin Jesus

Luke 3:15-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. . . .

So, with many other exhortations, John proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by John because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Sermon

Get to the Waters of Life

Silent Reflection

Musical Response

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

arr. John Helgen

WE RECEIVE AND RECOMMIT

Renewing Our Vows of Baptism

*The Promises of the Congregation

Is it your desire to renew the vows of your baptism?

It is my desire.

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life that God offers?

With God's help, I do.

Do you promise, by the grace of God in the year ahead, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the love and work of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith, to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and faithful member of Christ's church, as together we celebrate God's presence and further God's mission of love and justice in all the world?

I promise, with the help of God.

Finally, as we bless this water of baptism, will you give thanks for God's gift of water in all ways and recommit yourself to the wise use of this sacred resource for the sake of generations yet to come?

I promise, with the help of God.

*The Prayer over the Water (unison)

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water that it may be a sign of new life for all of us and the seal of your love in our individual lives and our life together. Help us to live and grow in the knowledge and love of you and your people. Bless us and strengthen us in the vows we have renewed today with you, all your children, and all the waters of creation. We pray in your name. Amen.

*The Sacrament of Renewal

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Crashing Waters at Creation

Stuttgart

Presenting Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

All that we are, all that we have, comes from your hand, O Lord. Receive our gifts and our lives this day. Use them to feed those who hunger in body and soul, bring hope to our world, and show your love for all creation. Amen.

Sharing Communion

The Story of this Feast and the Invitation

This table is open to all who seek to follow the way of Jesus the Christ, the way of love and life. Let us come to this 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 to this table, then, my sisters and brothers, as we are. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, conquered sin and death, and reconciled all creation to our Creator.

Prayer of Blessing

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(As your section is called, please come forward, receive the bread, dip it in a chalice or take a cup, and return to your seat by the next aisle. For a non-gluten wafer, please ask the server. All persons are welcome to share in this meal.)

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we thank you for Christ's presence and for the gifts we have received here. Send us now into your world in courage and peace. Open us to your signs of hope and joy. Give us the will to make your word of love and compassion flesh in our world. We pray in the name of *Jesús el Cristo*, Emmanuel, *Dios-con-nosotros*. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN PEACE

*Hymn 18 *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer* (1-2) Cwm Rhondda

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction 18 *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer* (st. 3) Cwm Rhondda

*Anointing and Laying On of Hands

(We invite those who wish to come forward for anointing and laying on of hands to please come down either aisle.

You are also invited to remain seated to be in a time of prayer or to leave quietly. Thank you.)

Soli Deo Gloria—To God Alone the Glory!

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for the Second Sunday of Epiphany. Your presence enriches the experience of us all. As you enter the Sanctuary, enter also into the spirit of worship in a time of quiet reflection. Children begin the service with the adults and youth, then go to Children's Ministry during the Song of Praise. They return for communion. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Dr. Michelle Schumann, Pianist; the Sanctuary Choir; Liturgists Linda Eccard and Blanca Surgeon; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator, assisted by Frank Wilbanks. You were welcomed by Barbara Christiano, Louise Cavatta, Rosemary Thompson, Pam Hyde, and Karen Wilbanks. Luis Zapata is the Sunday Aide.

Children's Ministry – "Sharing the Celebration of Creation"

Today the children celebrate the "creation" of the new year by making pictures for the bulletin board and celebrate last Sunday's successful Epiphany program with something sweet.

UNITED CHURCH SUPPORTS CALIFORNIA FIRE RELIEF

The devastating fires throughout southern California have left many people homeless, destroyed thousands of schools, places of worship, and businesses. The United Church of Christ, both nationally and through local California congregations, is providing both emergency relief to those in need (regardless of faith or background) and will help rebuild communities and lives. United Church of Santa Fe invites your donations (online: unitedchurchofsantafe.org; by check, memo: "California Fire Relief") to be sent to the Southern California Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you.

Adult Forum: Reading Bonhoeffer in 2025 America – Today (11:15 am in Education wing)

This 5-part Forum series begins today with a documentary about Bonhoeffer's life and work, including a light lunch, discussion, and class introduction (schedule and reading). Subsequent forums will finish the documentary and turn to Bonhoeffer's essay, *After Ten Years*, his account of German fascism and what its resisters learned. His essay will be made available to those who signed up for the class.

Wednesday Women's Study Group (Jan. 15 – 10:00 am)

We continue our study of *The Collected Works of Eudora Welty*. All women welcome! (Cheryl Morton: 515-240-4523, MomMorton@gmail.com; Jenn Wynn: 817-219-0707, home@wynnes.us)

Resiliency and Hope: The Gospel of Mark – Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (MDT) on Zoom

Join in as we explore what happened after the First Christmas. Register: unitedchurchsf@gmail.com). All welcome!

Next Sunday, **in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.**, we welcome Jazz Pianist (and United member) Andy Kingston for a service of spirituals and gospel music. A great day to bring friends!

Newcomers' Breakfast – Next Sunday, Jan. 19 (11:15 am)

Like to learn more about the United Church of Santa Fe? Come to the Newcomers Breakfast at 11:15 next Sunday, Jan. 19. Attending an orientation isn't a commitment to join, but an opportunity to learn more about the church. Please RSVP in the Community Room or call the office (505-988-3295).

Adult Forum: Somos Un Pueblo Unido – Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday – Jan. 19

United's Immigration and Refugee Task Force has arranged for a speaker from *Somos Un Pueblo Unido*, a Santa Fe-based immigrant rights organization, to bring us up to date information on the situation immigrants and refugees in our community face in the new administration—and how we can respond, individually and as a church.

BLESSED. . . TO BE A BLESSING!

96% to the 2024 Stewardship Goal!

- We've received 166 pledges to date, totaling over \$538,000! Just 4% from our \$560,000 goal that funds everything from the lights to Children's and Youth Ministry to music to outreach. Your pledge counts!
- **If you haven't had a chance to pledge yet, please do so today!** Pledge cards and envelopes in the Community Room.

United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change (and Climate Disasters)

Mitigate your carbon travel footprint with United's "**Carbon Offset Program**" which supports climate advocacy of *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and hands-on work of *Tree New Mexico*. The math is easy. Flying: donate \$4 for every hour in flight; driving: donate \$4 per 1,000 miles. Info: unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care.

At United, we seek to "Love God, Neighbor, Creation" in a whole lot of ways. . . .

Support for Ukrainian and Afghan refugees, reducing our carbon impact, emergency funds for our Diné/Navajo neighbors, and more! Go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to find out how you can help. Thank you!

Sing with the Choir this Winter!

January is a great time to start with the Sanctuary Choir. Contact Director of Music Bradley Ellingboe for more info. (unitedchurch.brad@gmail.com)

FebFest Choral Workshop and Concert

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 – United Church

Concert at 4:00 pm

United's Festival Choir and *Coro Lux* present FebFest 2025 with special guest, Dr. Brandon Boyd, in a Saturday workshop (Feb. 8) followed by a free concert that afternoon here at United. A free-will offering for the concert benefits the new Santa Fe Symphony Children's and Youth Choirs and also the UNM Gospel Choir, "Fervent Praise." Sign up here: www.tickettailor.com/events/corolux. (Dr. Boyd will also be our guest in worship on Sunday, Feb. 9.)

Don't File Your Taxes Yet!

Please wait to file your income tax returns until you receive your contributions receipt from the church that we plan to mail by the end of January. Questions? Please call the church (505-988-3295). (The church's long-time accountant retired in December, so we're working with a new firm—we appreciate your patience.)

I Have a Dream – Zia Singers Concert

Saturday, Jan. 18 at 7:00 pm & Sunday, Jan. 19 at 3:00 pm

Cristo Rey Catholic Church, 1107 Cristo Rey St.

The Zia Singers, under the Artistic Direction of John Tirrano present, present music inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. and concepts of peace and love. For tickets and information: www.TheZiaSingers.com.