

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
for  
**THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**The United Church of Santa Fe**  
**A United Church of Christ**

**October 20, 2024**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**For Reflection:**

“Everything happens for a reason.” The only thing worse than saying this is pretending that you know the reason. I’ve had hundreds of people tell me the reason for my cancer. Because of my sin. Because of my unfaithfulness. Because God is fair. Because God is unfair. Because of my aversion to Brussels sprouts. I mean, no one is short of reasons. So if people tell you this, make sure you are there when they go through the cruelest moments of their lives, and start offering your own. When someone is drowning, the only thing worse than failing to throw them a life preserver is handing them a reason.”

*Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved*  
Kate Bowler, Professor of the History of Christianity, Duke University  
Diagnosed with stage IV cancer at age 35

**WE GATHER**

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

Prelude Edvard Grieg  
*Melody from Lyric Pieces, Op. 47, No. 3*

\*Introit Kremser  
***We Gather Together***  
*(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

***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.***

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God’s Gifts

***Blessed . . . to be a Blessing! 2025 Campaign for United*** Moderator Sarah Sawtell

Commissioning of Prayer Child Prayers and Blessing of United’s Children and Youth

\*Sharing God’s Gifts and Regathering in Song Kremser  
***We Gather Together***

Breathing in God’s Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship Bianco da Siena/Down Ampney  
*Come Forth, O Love Divine*

The Call to Worship from the Psalms (congregation bold)

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;  
**And the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.**  
The Lord is our strength and our song; the Lord has become our salvation.  
**And the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.**  
We shall not die, but we shall live, and proclaim the deeds of the Lord.  
**For the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.**  
Come, let us give thanks to the Lord!

\*Hymn Reginald Heber/Nicaea  
277 ***Holy, Holy, Holy*** (1-3)

## WE PREPARE

Musical Call to Prayer

*Lord, Bow Thine Ear to My Prayer*

Felix Mendelssohn

A Prayer of Invocation from Thomas à Kempis, *Imitation of Christ*

Grant us, O God,

**to know that which is worth knowing,  
to love that which is worth loving,  
to praise that which pleaseth thee most,  
to esteem that highly which to thee is precious. Amen.**

In a Time of Silent Prayer and the Affirmation of Grace

\*Our Song of Praise 277

**Holy, Holy, Holy** (st. 4)

Reginald Heber/Nicaea

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

## WE ENGAGE GOD'S WORD

From the Wisdom Literature Known as the Book of Job

Word of Introduction

*With Friends Like This*

The First Friend's First Answer: *It's Your Fault*

Job 4:1-9

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered:

"If one ventures a word with you,  
will you be offended?

But who can keep from speaking?

See, you have instructed many;  
you have strengthened the weak hands.

Your words have supported those who were stumbling,  
and you have made firm the feeble knees.

But now it has come to you, and you are impatient;  
it touches you, and you are dismayed.

Is not your fear of God your confidence,  
and the integrity of your ways your hope?

"Think now, who that was innocent ever perished?

Or where were the upright cut off?

As I have seen, those who plough iniquity  
and sow trouble reap the same.

By the breath of God they perish,  
and by the blast of his anger they are consumed."

Reflection

Eliphaz's Second Answer: *It's for Your Own Good (You'll Grow.)*

Job 5:17-18, 27

"How happy is the one whom God reproves;  
therefore do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

For God wounds, but then binds up;  
God strikes, but God's hands heal.

See, we have searched this out; it is true.  
Hear, and know it for yourself."

Reflection

The Second Friend's Answer: *It's Your Kids' Fault*

Job 8:1-6

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered:

"How long will you say these things,  
and the words of your mouth be a great wind?

Does God pervert justice?

Or does the Almighty pervert the right?

If your children sinned against the Lord,  
God delivered them into the power of their transgression.

If you will seek God

and make supplication to the Almighty,  
if you are pure and upright,

surely then God will rouse  
and restore to you your rightful place."

Reflection

The Third Friend's Answer: *You're Not as Righteous as You Claim*

Job 11:1-6

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered:  
"Should a multitude of words go unanswered,  
and should one full of talk be vindicated?  
Should your babble put others to silence,  
and when you mock, shall no one shame you?  
For you say, 'My conduct is pure,  
and I am clean in God's sight.'

But O that God would speak,  
and open the divine lips to you,  
and that the Lord would tell you the secrets of wisdom!  
For wisdom is many-sided.  
Know then that God exacts of you  
less than your guilt deserves."

Reflection

Job's Answer

Job 16:1-5

Then Job answered:  
"I have heard many such things;  
miserable comforters are you all.  
Have windy words no limit?  
Or what provokes you that you keep on talking?"

I also could talk as you do,  
if you were in my place;  
I could join words together against you,  
and shake my head at you.  
I could encourage you with my mouth,  
and the solace of my lips would assuage your pain.

Final Reflection

Silence

## WE RESPOND

Musical Response 289

*Come Forth, O Love Divine* (1-2)

Bianco da Siena/Down Ampney

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

## WE GO IN PEACE

\*Hymn

*O God, Beyond All Praising* (insert)

Michael Perry/Thaxted

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction

*Kyrie Eleison*  
*Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

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## WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We're glad you've joined in worship this morning, and we hope you found both the service and community engaging and enriching. We invite you also to join in the weeks ahead as together we "love God, Neighbor, and Creation." For more information about United, please visit our website [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org). 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!

Sharing leadership are the Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Jacquelyn Helin, D.M.A., Guest Pianist; Cheney Doane, Choral Director; the Sanctuary Choir; Quiara Cortez and Rebecca Brunette, Soloists; Moderator Sarah Sawtell; with Liturgists to be announced; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez with volunteer Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Kimberly Zeilik, Rosemary Thompson, Blanca Surgeon, Pam Hyde, Karen Wilbanks, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata.

### *Climate: What Is United Doing Right? And What Do We All Need to Do That We Aren't?*

#### **This Sunday's Forum – 11:15 with Larry Rasmussen**

Hurricanes, drought, tornadoes, floods, and fire—all increased due to human-caused climate change. What is United doing to mitigate this urgent issue? And what needs to be done—at home, at church, in governance and business, etc. Individually and as a church, we need to make the connections and take action. Join in this special presentation and discussion.

## 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.

### Pretty Good Guys – Wednesday (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*. (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 10:30 - 12:00)

### Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls – Thursday Mornings at 8:00 (via Zoom)

Explore the Gospel of Mark with Talitha Arnold and United members and friends from across Santa Fe and across the country. Sign up at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com) or speak with Talitha for more information.

### Support Santa Fe's Shelters – This Friday and Following Monday

United Church provides full dinners monthly to Santa Fe Shelters. Join in **"Chop and Grate" this Friday (October 25) at 9:30** to prepare casseroles for the Interfaith, Casa Familia, and St. Elizabeth Shelters **and/or make meatloaves at home and/or help deliver on Monday, October 28**. Please contact Pat Roach to help: [proach102@comcast.net](mailto:proach102@comcast.net); 505-988-7357.

### Festival Choir Offers Bach Cantata in 10:00 Service for Reformation Sunday

#### Next Sunday – Wear Red!

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is not only a statement of Christian belief, and a strong Protestant hymn, it's also a magnificent cantata by J.S. Bach. Next Sunday—Reformation Sunday—the Festival Choir, conducted by Bradley Ellingboe, offers this wonderful musical work in the 10:00 service, complete with guest soloists and instrumentalist (including David Felberg, Santa Fe Symphony concertmaster) and Steinway Artist Jacquelyn Helin. Plan to come and bring friends!

### Adult Forum Series: "To Seek Christ's Face" – Images of Jesus in Art Through the Ages Starts Next Sunday! (Oct. 27 – Nov. 24)

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? Here's the schedule:

- Oct. 27: Christ as Good Shepherd, Teacher and Sage
- Nov. 3: Christ Pantocrator, Blessing and Sustaining
- Nov. 17: Christ on the Cross, Resurrected and Reformed
- Nov. 24: Christ Among Us, Son of Man and Bread of Heaven

### UNITED CHURCH SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE RELIEF

The United Church of Santa Fe has many "sister" United Church of Christ congregations throughout the Southern states impacted by the devastating hurricane and floods. Many of them, including historic post-Civil War African American churches, are much older than United. Their homes, businesses, and churches have been destroyed and their members perished. Other UCC congregations are housing both people and animals of their neighbors. United invites your donations (online: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org); by check, memo: "Hurricane Relief") to be sent to the Disaster Ministries of the national United Church of Christ for their on-the-ground work throughout the region. Thank you.

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

Mitigate the carbon you put into the air through United's **"Carbon Offset Program"** that supports climate advocacy of *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and hands-on work of *Tree New Mexico*. When you fly, donate \$4 for every hour in flight. If you drive, it's \$4 per 1,000 miles. More info at: [unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care).

### Voices of Hope and Peace – Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*

#### Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus at St. Francis Cathedral

Next Sunday afternoon – Oct. 27—3:00 pm (Free)

The SF Symphony and Chorus, under the direction of Carmen Florez-Mansi (a former student of Bradley Ellingboe's) offers Ralph Vaughan Williams' cantata for peace, written in 1936 as a cry for hope. The concert also includes Rosephanye Powell's setting of Langston Hughes' *To Sit and Dream*, Elaine Hagenberg's *Measure Me, Sky!*, and other works. Elizabeth Roghair, Joan Snider, and Talitha Arnold sing with the Symphony Chorus.

### "Exploring the Pandemic's Impact on Congregations" (EPIC) National Survey

In 2022, the United Church of Santa Fe was chosen as one of 300 churches nationwide for a 5-year study of the pandemic's impact on congregations. Led by the Hartford Institute and funded by the Lilly Endowment, the initial data was gleaned from clergy and lay leaders, and proved very helpful in understanding the challenges churches now face. This year, the EPIC study includes all participants from the 300 congregations. Soon United members and friends will receive this link to the survey: [covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9GYI89a3NMOwuFw?congregation=99202](https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GYI89a3NMOwuFw?congregation=99202). We hope you'll join in and complete it by November 15. Our goal is 75% participation of the United community! Questions? Please contact Talitha Arnold or Moderator Sarah Sawtell. Thank you!

# ***Blessed. . . to be a Blessing!***

## **2025 Campaign for United**

### **A Weekend with Composer/Pianist Ken Medema**

**Saturday, Nov. 9 – 3:00 pm “Cookies & Conversation”  
4:00 pm Concert**

**Sunday, Nov. 10 – 10:00 am Worship Service  
& 11:15 am Forum**

**(Both Saturday concert and Sunday Service  
in-person and livestreamed)**



We’ve sung the music of composer Ken Medema’s music at United for many years (*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying; Tree Song, etc.*). He helps us sing of God’s abundant blessings in each of our lives, and through his music, shows us how to give thanks to God by sharing our blessings. That’s the essence of Christian Stewardship. On Saturday, Nov. 9, Ken offers a concert of his music, including songs he’ll make up on the spot from ***your*** stories. We’ll also offer our pledges of financial support for United’s future. We hope you’ll join in both the 3:00 pm “Cookies and Conversation” and the 4:00 concert for all ages! (Ken is also our guest in 10:00 Sunday Worship and 11:15 Adult Forum.)

To help us plan for “Cookies, Conversation, and Concert” on November 9<sup>th</sup>, please let us know whether or not you can come ([unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com); 505-988-3295). Thank you!

# O God, Beyond All Praising



1. O God, beyond all prais-ing we wor-ship you to-day  
2. The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
3. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-oir, ac-cept the love we bear



And sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
Its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;  
That we who know your fa-vor may of-fer you our prayer.



For we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,  
But hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown,  
And wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



At bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end.  
Though small in mor-tal stat-ure to heav-en's gar-den grown.  
We'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still,



We lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word;  
For Christ, the one from heav-en, from death has set us free,  
To mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



We hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.  
And we through Christ are giv-en the fin-al vic-to-ry!  
And make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996, © 1982, The Jubilate Group (admin. By Hope Pub. Co.) – adapted  
Tune: THAXTED, 13 13 13 13 13 13; Gustav Holst, 1874-1934