

**A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT  
for  
THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

**October 13, 2024  
10:00 A.M.**

**For Reflection:**

“It was certainty, plain and simple that God had a worthy plan for my life  
in which every set back would also be a step forward.”

*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.)*

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.***

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

\*Sharing God's Gifts and Regathering in Song

***We Gather Together***

Kremser

Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

*Take My Life, God, Let It Be*

Justin H. Knecht

The Call to Worship from Psalm 91 (congregation bold)

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to God,

**God is our refuge and our fortress; our God, in whom we trust.**

God will cover you with God's pinions, and under God's wings you will find refuge; God's faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

**God is our refuge and our fortress; our God, in whom we trust.**

You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day.

**God is our refuge and our fortress; our God, in whom we trust.**

For God will command God's angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

**God is our refuge and our fortress; our God, in whom we trust.**

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

**God is our refuge and our fortress; our God, in whom we trust.**

\*Hymn

423

***Great Is Your Faithfulness*** (1-2)

Thomas Chisholm/William Runyan

## WE PREPARE

### \*In A Prayer of Invocation

God of grace, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness,  
you have brought us forth from the womb of your being  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

**We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from you.  
Feed our deep hungers with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ.  
May Jesus' promise, "Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
there am I in the midst of them," be fulfilled in us.**

Make us a joyful company of your people  
so that with the faithful in every place and time we may praise  
and honor you, God Most High. Amen.

### \*In a Time of Silent Prayer

### \*In the Affirmation of Grace

\*Our Song of Praise      423      *Great Is Your Faithfulness* (st. 3)      Thomas Chisholm/William Runyan  
*(During the song, children are invited to Children's Ministry with Teacher Andrea Gonzalez  
and Children's Ministry Assistant Maria Navarette. They return for Communion.)*

## WE ENGAGE GOD'S WORD

From the Wisdom Literature of the Hebrew Bible

The Book of Job, Chapter 1

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and very many servants; so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. His sons used to go and hold feasts in one another's houses in turn; and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And when the feast days had run their course, Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt-offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." This is what Job always did.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil." Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not put a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not stretch out your hand against him!" So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

One day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the eldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were ploughing and the donkeys were feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell on them and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, another came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you."

Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshipped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing.

Sermon

*A Deal with the Devil*

Silent Reflection

Musical Reflection

*Abide with Me*

arr. Moses Hogan

## WE RESPOND

Sharing the Gift of Communion

Remembering the Story

Welcoming One Another and Giving Thanks to God

This table is open to all who seek to know God's love and to follow in Christ's way of hope and justice.  
We come to this table not because we must,

**but because we may.**

We come not because we are fulfilled,

**but because we stand in need of God's mercy and assurance.**

We come not to express an opinion,

**but to seek a presence.**

This meal is offered for you and me that we might again know that in Jesus Christ God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death, reconciling all creation to our Creator. Let us come to know God's steadfast love in our lives.

The Prayer of Blessing and the Lord's Prayer (*please pray any version*)

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*(Communion is open to all. As called, please come forward to receive the bread or non-gluten wafer. Then either take an individual cup or dip the bread into the chalice and return to your seat by the next aisle. Thank you!)*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Bountiful God, Holy God, we give you thanks that you have renewed us at your table with your gifts of bread, cup, and transforming love. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## WE GO IN PEACE

\*Hymn 18 *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer* William Williams/Cwm Rhondda

A Time of Blessing and Godspeed Alan Andrade

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction *Kyrie Eleison* Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

*Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

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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; Cheney Doane, Guest Pianist and Choral Director; Liturgists to be announced; Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez with Frank Wilbanks. You were greeted by Louise Cavatta, Tom and Sally Stewart, Pam Hyde, and Sunday Aide Luis Zapata.

**Adult Forum: *What's the Problem with Being Christian?* – Today at 11:15 am**

We live in a time when the term “Christian” can have many negative associations, from Christian Nationalism to Christian opposition to LGBTQ rights. What does the word “Christian” mean to you? What does it mean to identify with the “United Church of *Christ*?” As we consider revising our church’s covenant to include Jesus Christ, join in this conversation.

***Climate Change, Climate Catastrophe—What Can (and Should) We Do?* – Next Sunday’s Forum**

As the country is battered with more and stronger hurricanes and flooding (in unexpected places), as well as forest fires and other climate change disasters, what can—and should—we be doing, individually and as a Christian church? Join Environmental Ethicist Larry in a 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.

**Wednesday Women’s Study Group – Oct. 16 (10:00 am)**

This week they begin reading *The Personal Librarian* by Heather Terrell and Victoria Christopher Murray. All women invited. For info, please contact Cheryl Morton (515-240-4523, [mommorton@gmail.com](mailto:mommorton@gmail.com)) or Jenn Wynn (817-219-0707, [home@wynnes.us](mailto:home@wynnes.us)).

***Resiliency and Hope: Strengthening Our Souls* – Thursday, Oct. 17 at 8:00 am (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.

**Blessing of “Prayer Child” Children and Youth – and Adult Prayers – Next Sunday, October 20**

Almost 40 adults have volunteered to pray every day through this year for a child or youth in the United community. The “Prayer Child Pray-ers” will also remember their “prayee” on their birthday and holy days like Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. Next Sunday we will bless children and youth of United—and the people who are praying for them every day.

**Adult Forum Series: “*To Seek Christ’s Face*” – *Images of Jesus in Art Through the Ages* (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. 17: Christ on the Cross, Resurrected and Reformed
- Nov. 3: Christ Pantocrator, Blessing and Sustaining
- Nov. 24: Christ Among Us, Son of Man and Bread of Heaven

**Festival Choir Offers Bach Cantata – Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27**

Spread the word and bring a friend to 10:00 worship!

***Blessed . . . to be a Blessing!* – 2025 Stewardship Campaign for United – SAVE THE DATES!**

**Concert with Ken Medema – Saturday, Nov. 9 (4:00 pm – with dessert at 3:00 pm)**

**10:00 Worship Service, Sunday, Nov. 10**

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

**MANY THANKS FOR MANY GIFTS!**

Through the generosity of United friends, far and near, we supported neighbors and creation, near and far:

- \$3,110 for United Church of Christ Hurricane Relief throughout the southern U.S.
- \$2,160 for Santa Fe Food Depot.
- 399 Hygiene Kits for Church World Service to send our neighbors in Gaza and Ukraine
- \$2,909 for Roots, the Palestinian Israeli Peace Initiative in the West Bank.
- 170 suppers for the guests of Santa Fe’s Shelters.
- 17 bags of trash and one grocery cart from the Santa Fe River Cleanup for Watershed Assoc.

**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).