

A Service of Justice and Hope  
of the Presbytery of Santa Fe  
at First Presbyterian Church  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
March 11, 2026  
5:30 p.m.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE      *Partita on "O du frommer Gott", BWV 767*      by J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

May God's grace surround you as we now begin our service of worship by lighting four candles, with deep respect and admiration for the Zia people

- recognizing that God calls all of us from north and south and east and west,
- acknowledging that we are called to be faithful in every season of the year, in winter, spring, fall, and summer,
- remembering that we are called to shine God's light in the morning, noon, evening, and night,
- and praying that we will shine God's light at every stage of life, in childhood, youth, middle age, and old age.

Therefore, at this time, we recognize that . . .

Like a city set on a hill, we gather here from every point on the compass to shine the light that pierces the darkness, and with a beacon made of small kindnesses, we light this candle of hope for our city and every city.

*We are here with our city.*

*Our love for each other will carry us through.*

*Yes, our love for each other will carry us through.*

In our country, many people are being targeted and racially profiled, and labels as well as handcuffs are being placed upon them. Tonight we light this candle of inclusion so that its splendor can shine upon all people at every hour of the day and night, because we are here for our neighbors.

*We are here with our neighbors.*

*Our love for each other will carry us through.*

*Yes, our love for each other will carry us through.*

Entrenched in the world's darkness, there is hatred and cruelty and violence, and yet, among us, beyond the reach of language, love continues. Accordingly, in order to expose and dismantle the injustice, and to commit ourselves to work for equality for people at every stage of life, we light this candle for our siblings.

*We are here with our siblings.*

*Our love for each other will carry us through.*

*Yes, our love for each other will us through.*

As we seek to live our faith, God often calls us to speak truth to power and confront the idolatry of partisanship. And so, we light this candle for the soul of our nation, praying that it will ignite the fire of faith in us throughout every season of the year, because we are here as disciples.

*We are here as disciples.  
Our love for each other will carry us through.  
Yes, our love for each other will carry us through.*

### **PRAYER FOR THE EVENING** (unison)

**Eternal God, who calls justice to roll down like waters, and who summons righteousness to bless the earth like an ever-flowing stream,  
grant that on this Lenten evening You would lead us to the shores of goodness and truth,  
so that we may craft communities of care throughout our country.  
Equip us with the courage to stand against the cruel currents of presidential proclamations,  
and stir the waters of righteousness to unmask the manipulative, to oppose the politics of partiality, and to open our minds to new realities.  
Inspire us to promote peace and equality among all people,  
and guide us in our endeavors to bring healing where there is hurt, justice where there is inequity, hope where there is despair,  
so that all humanity may be blessed with the foretaste of what You desire for all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **\*PASSING THE PEACE**

Sisters and brothers, through Jesus Christ, we have been blessed with the peace that the world can neither give nor take away. Therefore, having been reconciled to God and to our fellow human beings, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ.

### **\*HYMN**

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

Glory to God, #315

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?  
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,  
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?  
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

As we stand, a world divided by our own self seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wilder dreams.  
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,  
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.  
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,  
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.  
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Eternal God, whose word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our way,  
as we trek through the often tense and trying trails of this Lenten season,  
grant that these sacred texts would illumine us to walk through the wilderness of the world.  
Plant the scintillating seeds of each syllable of Scripture into our hearts,  
so that Your Spirit would cultivate among us the luminous virtues of justice and hope,  
and we would enlighten the land with Your vision of a new future,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **READING FROM THE WORD**

Daniel 3:13-23

<sup>13</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. <sup>14</sup> Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up?" <sup>15</sup> Now if you are

ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let God deliver us. <sup>18</sup> But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

<sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, <sup>20</sup> and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>21</sup> So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>22</sup> Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. <sup>23</sup> But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." <sup>25</sup> He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god."

<sup>26</sup> Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. <sup>27</sup> And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them.

<sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God."

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

*Near the Fire?*

## ANTHEM

*Wondrous Love*

by David Edmonds

*A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of a society in which it is being proclaimed. What gospel is that?"* — Archbishop Oscar Romero

## \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Confession of 1967*

**Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.**

**People are free to seek life within the purpose of God:**

**to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare,**

**to work for justice and peace in society,**

**and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.**

**Wherever the church exists,**

**its members are both gathered in corporate life and dispersed in society**

**for the sake of mission in the world.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Father . . . and our Mother, and our Source of all life, who has fashioned all of us in Your image, and who always stands with the poor and the powerless, the abandoned and the abused, the vulnerable and the victimized, hold us in Your love as we seek to embrace our human family with our love.

Who art in heaven . . . where Your dominion models for us the earthly reality we seek to create, where the first will be last and the last will be first, and where we will dwell in harmony with You, with all humankind, and with all creation.

Hallowed be thy name . . . as we glorify You, O God, by helping to build a more equitable world of peace, justice, and love; and by working to enhance dignity and respect among the dispossessed, to the victims of violence, and to every human being made in Your image and likeness.

Thy kingdom come . . . as You help us to create a world where everyone is included, where the bonds of fellowship are deepened, where poverty and oppression are eliminated, and where we will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with You and each other.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven . . . **and inspire us to be faithful to the tasks You entrust to us, seeking the common good by embodying the wisdom of Your word and the truth of Your teaching, and by overcoming the corruption and injustice in economic, political, and cultural arenas, so that the light of heaven will shine upon and through all of our structures on earth.**

Give us this day . . . **not tomorrow or in some indefinite future, but *this* day give to everyone, even the people very different from us, the blessings of life and love that strengthen and sustain all of us equally, since all of life is a gift from You, and we share these gifts because You have first given them to us.**

Our daily bread . . . **and grant, O Lord, that each day every person on the planet would have enough food, enough clean water, enough clear air, meaningful health care, and sufficient access to education that all humanity would enjoy the blessings of an abundant life.**

And forgive us our debts . . . **and our ingratitude to You, O Lord, as well as our blindness toward our neighbors, our self-preoccupation, our careless words, and the hurt and harm we may have caused or perpetuated by being aware of these toxic times and choosing to do nothing about it.**

As we forgive our debtors . . . **by working for reconciliation and renewal among those who have hurt or offended us. Guard us against bitterness and resentment, so that through mutual forgiveness we may celebrate the wonder of true communion with those who were once estranged from us.**

And lead us not into temptation . . . **and protect us from selfishness and greed and insensitivity and indifference. Guard us from the lure of overlooking the needs of our neighbors so that we can accumulate more, and keep us from denying the harsh realities in our country so that we would not be disturbed.**

But deliver us from evil . . . **and from the sin of accepting political oppression that dehumanizes our fellow human beings, from remaining silent in the face of the systemic violence and injustice that muffles God's truth, and from embracing the lust for power that bullies and abuses other people.**

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever . . . **and we pray that You would touch the hearts of all who govern or hold authority in the world, so that they may love the light rather than darkness, and the surge of Your peace that the world can neither give nor take away would be magnified among us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**TITHES & OFFERINGS** The offering is for the Faith Coalition Fund for Immigrants

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With hearts of praise, O God, we dedicate these gifts to You as symbols of our gratitude for all that You have done, and continue to do, for us. Use the gifts we offer to You, and use us, to fulfill Your purposes for creation, for Your church, and for Your world, so that we would glorify You, not only in hearing Your word, but in doing what it requires of us, for we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### \*HYMN

*How Firm a Foundation*

Glory to God, #463

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

by Adolphus Hairstock