

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**

EASTER SUNDAY - MARCH 31, 2024



MEDITATION

Why do people keep asking to see
God's identity papers
when the darkness opening into morning
Is more than enough?

– Mary Oliver, from “I Wake Close to Morning” in *Felicity*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR MELINDA VEATCH

PRELUDE *Christ Arose!* (Robert Lowery)

HYMN NO. 294 The congregation is invited to join the choir on all three verses!

CALL TO WORSHIP - *Adapted from Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26*

TODD SCHROEDEL

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

People: O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever. God alone does
great wonders,

People: for his steadfast love endures forever;

Leader: by understanding God made the heavens,

People: for his steadfast love endures forever;

Leader: God spread out the earth on the waters,

People: for his steadfast love endures forever;

Leader: God made the great lights, the sun to rule over the day, the moon and stars to rule over the night.

People: for his steadfast love endures forever;

Leader: It is God who remembered us in our low estate, who rescued us from our foes, and who gives
food to all,

People: for his steadfast love endures forever;

Leader: O Give thanks to the God of heaven, for God's steadfast love endures forever. Let us worship God!

WELCOMING SONG* *Thine Is The Glory* (Edmond L. Budry, words; George Frideric Handel; music)

HYMN NO. 310

Leader: Glory to you, O God! On this day you won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ! For us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life. Glory to you, Holy Spirit! You lead us into the truth.

People: God of Life and Love, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. From out of the doom of death, you raise us with him and renew your gift of life within us. Direct our lives as your new creation. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us grow as your people into the fullness of life in your Spirit. May our every word and action speak your saving love into the world, and may the power of your love transform our lives and bring your wholeness into the world. Amen.

HYMN NO. 289 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven* (Christopher Wordsworth, words; Ludwig van Beethoven, music)

SCRIPTURE READING ISAIAH 12:1-6

LISA YOUNG

¹ In that day you will say:

“I will praise you, Lord.

Although you were angry with me,
your anger has turned away
and you have comforted me.

² Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.”

³ With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

⁴ In that day you will say:

“Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done,
and proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things;
let this be known to all the world.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God, Amen.

ANTHEM *Hallelujah Chorus* (G. F. Handel; arr. Larry Pugh)

UCSJ CHOIR

Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah!

*The kingdom of this world is become
the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ,
and of His Christ;*

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,

And He shall reign for ever and ever.

Hallelujah!

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”

¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON

“Love Makes a Way”

PASTOR MELINDA VEATCH

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

TODD SCHROEDEL AND PASTOR MELINDA VEATCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG* *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* (Charles Wesley, words; Lyra Davidica, 1708)

HYMN NO. 288

CLOSING PRAYER

Holy and Loving God, we praise you for the life we have in your Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord. Your light shines through the darkness in our lives and in our world. You bring us from death to life as we live each new day in your Way of Love. As we go out on this Easter Sunday, may we take your love that brings life with us. As we live it, may your love grow in our lives and in the world around us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask it. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* (Caribbean; Hal H. Hopson, verses)

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PAINO

HYMN NO. 5 *Sing with Katy!*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

PASTOR MELINDA VEATCH

SENDING SONG* *Alleluia No. 1* (Donald Fishel)

HYMN NO. 291

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!
Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen,
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!*

***Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable**

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