

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**

**FIRST SUNDAY
IN LENT**

FEBRUARY 18, 2024



MEDITATION

Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the gospels. It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures. Fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us. Like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

– C. S. Lewis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

PRELUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CALL TO WORSHIP

TIM SPANGLER

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

People: **Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks
to him and praise his name.

People: **For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness
continues through all generations.**

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us worship God!

WELCOMING SONG* *What Wondrous Love is This* (Appalachian folk hymn; *Southern Harmony*, 1835)

HYMN NO. 257 **Verses 1, 2 and 3**

Holy God, you are the one who has created us. You continually search us, and you know us. You see the beauty and the good you have created in us. You see the ways we deny that goodness. You watch the ways we mar the beauty. Still, you love us, more deeply than we can ever imagine. Still you call us to your Way of Healing and of Hope. We give thanks for the ways you guide and direct us to your Way of Wholeness. Create in us clean hearts, O God, that we live in a way that shows others who you are and who we are because of you. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord of Life and the Lord of Love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING LUKE 12:13-21

MICK GRAFF

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God, Amen.

ANTHEM *Amazing Love* (Graham Kendrick)

UCSJ CHOIR

My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly;
That I, the guilty one may go free?

Refrain

**Amazing love, O what sacrifice,
The Son of God, given for me;
My debt he pays and my death he dies,
That I might live, that I might live.**

And so they watched him die, despised, rejected;
But O the blood he shed flowed for me. **Refrain**

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;
Come, wash your guilt away, live again. **Refrain**

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON

“A Bigger Picture”

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your continued support of the church and our mission.

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

TIM SPANGLER AND REV. 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* *Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley* (African-American spiritual)

HYMN NO. 254 Verse 1: All
Verse 2: Women
Verse 3: Men
Verse 4: All

CLOSING PRAYER

TIM SPANGLER

Holy God, you know the depth of your love for us. We give you thanks for the lives you have given us. For the grace and healing we have in your Spirit. As we go from here, take our lives and all in them and use us in your service. May we live in ways that shine your light, your love, and your life into a hurting world. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

POSTLUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CHARGE AND BLESSING

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

SENDING SONG *Christ The Eternal Lord* (Timothy Dudley-Smith, words; George J. Elvery, music)

HYMN NO. 335 Verse 4

*Christ the unfading Light of everlasting day,
Our morning star in splendor bright, the Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth you give to servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, your life to live, till earth's brief journey ends.*

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OUR MISSION

- We are a loving and compassionate church family that *respects the dignity and integrity* of each individual.
- We find our joy and meaning through faith in God and Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- We seek to promote Christian unity and to encourage understanding and cooperation with those from different traditions.
- We seek to foster deeper relationships with God and each other through worship, fellowship, growth and service.

WE ARE AFFILIATED WITH

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA ~ THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Rev. Melinda A. Veatch

ucsjpastor@gmail.com

Church Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm.

www.ucsjridgway.org . 970-626-5803 . P.O. Box 295 . 295 N. Lena Street . Ridgway CO 81432 . Facebook/UCSJ Ridgway

MUSIC

Katy Kristoffersen, Director
ucsjmusic@gmail.com

OFFICE

Anita Posey, Admin. Assistant
ucsjoffice@gmail.com