

A young boy with dark hair is looking up at a large, lit Christmas tree. The tree is covered in warm white lights and is the central focus of the image. The background is a soft, warm glow, suggesting a festive indoor setting.

THE
United Church
OF THE San Juans

*Comfort and Joy
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2020*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Where Are You Christmas?

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Where are you Christmas
 Why can't I find you
 Why have you gone away
 Where is the laughter
 You used to bring me
 Why can't I hear music play

My world is changing
 I'm rearranging
 Does that mean Christmas changes too

Where are you Christmas
 Do you remember
 The one you used to know

I'm not the same one
 See what the time's done
 Is that why you have let me go

I feel you Christmas
 I know I've found you
 You never fade away,

The joy of Christmas
 Stays here inside us
 Fills each and every heart with love
 Where are you Christmas
 Fill your heart with love

WELCOMING CHRISTMAS

Leader: This—tonight—is the meeting place of heaven and earth. For tonight we remember the stable in which God keeps his appointment to meet his people.

People: Tonight, a child is born for us. Unto us a son has been given. We shall call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.

Leader: Bethlehem was not the hub of the universe, nor was the stable a gathering place for the rich and famous.

People: It was a place of welcome to all, most of all, the meek and lowly. We all are welcome here.

Leader: This is the place where God kept and where God keeps his promise.

People: Come, let us see what the Lord has done! Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

MEDLEY OF CAROLS

Sing We Now of Christmas
Carol of the Bells
Little Drummer Boy

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

PREPARING THE WAY FOR CHRIST TO COME

As you enter the sanctuary, you are invited to lay your strip of swaddling cloth in the manger as a symbol of welcome and a sign of your intention to make a place for Christ to enter your life anew this year. Please move quickly into the sanctuary and fill the seats from the back of the sanctuary to the front so we can continue maintaining safe distance between family groups. When all are gathered, we will continue worship with the lighting of the Christ candle

ANTHEM

Away in a Manger

CLAIRE BAILEY AND CAMBELL MUSGROVE

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader: On this holy night, we remember the gifts of God for which we have been waiting with eager anticipation: hope, peace, joy and love. Tonight, as we light this last candle, the Christ candle, we celebrate the one who came to bring God's good and perfect gifts for us.

People: Lord of brilliant light, shine in our hearts tonight. Bring us to the manger with such longing for your love that our hearts are cracked open to receive you and to share your love with others.

Leader: O Wondrous God of the stars, we come with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace," and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love. Touch us—touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. In the name of our coming Lord, Jesus, we pray.

ANTHEM *What Child is This?* REYA AND SEAN LAWLER

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20 ELLIOT KRISTOFFERSEN

ANTHEM *Angels We Have Heard on High* REYA AND SEAN LAWLER

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE PASTOR PAM STOFFERAHN

ANTHEM *Joy to the World* REYA AND SEAN LAWLER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: . . . Lord Jesus, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

CANDLELIT SINGING OF PEACE PEACE / SILENT NIGHT CHILDREN'S CHOIR

As you exit the front door of the sanctuary, you will receive your candle. Please move quickly out to the sidewalks, maintaining six foot spacing between family groups. When all are gathered, we will light our candles and begin singing together.

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.
This is a time for joy,
This is a time for love.
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peach on earth.

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

BLESSING

Leader: Go now in wonder. Go to bring light to those in darkness, joy to those who can find no joy, peace to those whose hearts are anxious, hope to those who fear the future, and love to everyone you meet. Go with the songs of angels in your ears and the love of God in your hearts. Go and spread the good news, Jesus Christ is born.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

WORSHIP LEADERS

PASTOR PAM STOFFERAHN

CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTERS: NIKI, INA AND TEYA DOW

READER: ELLIOT KRISTOFFERSEN

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: MARGOT KRISTOFFERSEN (1ST GRADE), JADE GOLDSTEIN (1ST GRADE), EMMA MARR (2ND GRADE), ANNABELLE QUADRI (2ND GRADE), SAIDE MCCrackEN (2ND GRADE), CYD GOLDSTEIN (2ND GRADE), LUNA KRAVAT (3RD GRADE), CAMPBELL MUSGROVE (5TH GRADE), CLAIRE BAILEY (5TH GRADE)

MUSICIAN: KATY KRISTOFFERSEN

Wishing you a very merry Christmas!

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 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 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA ✿ THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA
✿ THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ✿ THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ✿

UCSJ OFFICE - (970) 626-5803

Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 AM to Noon

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Pam Stofferahn, Pastor
EMAIL: ucsjpastor@gmail.com

Katy Kristoffersen, Director of Music
EMAIL: ucsjmusic@gmail.com

EMAIL: ucsjoffice@gmail.com

LOCATION

P.O. Box 295 . 295 N. Lena Street . Ridgway. CO. 81432
EMAIL: UCSJoffice@gmail.com WEBSITE: www.ucsjridgway.org
www.facebook.com/ucsjridgway