

THE
United Church OF THE **San Juans**

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 27, 2020

MUSICAL MEDITATION *Instrumental Improvisation*

WELCOME

PASTOR PAM STOFFERAHN

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Christmas tree lights have dimmed.

People: The once-wrapped gifts have been shared.

Leader: But the awesome love of God still shines brightly in our hearts.

People: Our spirits resound with the good news of salvation.

Leader: God is with us!

People: Thanks be to God!

WELCOMING SONG *O Come All Ye Faithful (John F Wade)*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O com ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels'

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; **Refrain**

Refrain
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; **Refrain**

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Leader: God of all seasons, we come to you in the waning of this year. We confess it has not been the year any of us expected. None of us could have seen a year ago that a pandemic was coming. None of us could see the hardship, the suffering, the loss of jobs, the despair, the panic, and the death that so many have experienced.

People: We confess our brokenness to you, God. Our broken systems that are supposed to help the least among us have failed.

Leader: We confess our broken social systems that keep us from finding new ways of reaching out and connecting with others.

People: We confess that this year was hellish. We pray for your wisdom and guidance to lead us into this new year.

Leader: Help us to repair what has been broken, God. Help us to restore ways of caring for the most vulnerable. Guide us to repairing or planting new communities that live into your ways of love, justice, and healing.

People: And lead us into ways of deep compassion and empathy to care for our neighbors in need. We pray all these things in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord, who leads us into life. Amen.

Silence for personal reflection

Leader: A new year is dawning, a new hope. Every day is a new day. God has given God's Son that we might have life--new, vital, sparkling life! Trust in God's forgiving grace and believe that you are a new creation. Feel the wondrous power and love of God in your heart and know that God is with you always.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Leader: Let us pray. God of mystery and love, help us move from the sweet experience of the birth of the Christ Child into the reality of the powerful witness of Jesus who will be Messiah for us all. Remind us again that this season is not about bows and boxes, feasts and family; it is about preparing us, your people, for a mission and ministry of hope and peace for this aching and angry world. Empower us to be people of great faith, placing our trust in you, believing that peace is not only possible, but it truly can happen if we will work with you and with one another.

People: Amen.

GOSPEL READING **Luke 2:22-40**

MESSAGE **WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?**

PASTOR PAM STOFFERAHN

ANTHEM *Holy is His Name, with Magnificat* (John Michael Talbot)

UCSJ ENSEMBLE

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
And my spirit exults in God my savior.
For he has looked with mercy on my lowliness,
And my name will be forever exalted.
For the mighty God has done great things for me,
And his mercy will reach from age to age.

He has mercy in every generation.
He has revealed his power and his glory.
He has cast down mighty in their arrogance.
And has lifted up the meek and the lowly.
He has come to help his servant Israel;
He remembers his promise to our fathers. **Refrain**

Refrain

And holy, holy, holy is his name.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HOLY COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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, for ever. Amen.

Instrumental Improvisation

*This is the Lord's Table, and all are welcome here. Servers will bring communion to you. All service is grape juice.
Gluten-free communion is available. Just let your server know if that is your preference.*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

PASTORAL BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Go Tell it On the Mountain (John W. Work, words; African-American Spiritual)

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's
birth. **Refrain**

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by
night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy
light. **Refrain**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas
morn. **Refrain**

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

People: Thanks be to God.

POST-SERVICE MUSIC

Instrumental Improvisation

UCSJ ENSEMBLE: Dee James, Ron James, and Katy Kristoffersen



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 - Friday 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM

CHURCH STAFF

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