

THE  
**United Church** OF THE **San Juans**

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
JANUARY 3, 2021

MUSICAL MEDITATION

*The First Noel* (English Carol)

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

WELCOME

PASTOR PAM STOFFERAHN

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God of new beginnings, God of sacred endings, we gather at this start of a new year, unsure of what the future holds ...awaiting transformation, renewal, the chance to begin again.

**People: Our times are in your hands, God, give us hope for the journey.**

Leader: We have traveled through dangers seen and unseen, we have tiptoed through dark nights of the souls and wrestled against powers that should have kept us down.

**People: Our times are in your hands, God, give us courage for the journey.**

Leader: Encourage us to be ever mindful of your still speaking voice; to dance without fear, and to know that with the coming of your light fear must release its death-grip on our lives.

**People: Our times are in your hands, O God, give us light for the journey.**

Leader: The future stretches out before us full of mystery and full of surprise. We need you, God of new beginnings, to set the course, and guide our feet in the way of your future.

**People: Our times are in Your hands, God, lead us to life.**

WELCOMING SONG

*Of the Father's Love Begotten* (Marcus Aurelius Prudentius, 4th c.; Plainsong, 13th c.)

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall  
see, Evermore and evermore!

Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts his praises sing;  
Powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be silent, every  
voice in concert ring, Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when a virgin, blest with grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Leader: In this season of Christmas, we are reminded that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Yet we are fearful and anxious; we do not trust in the light of God — the Word of God made flesh. Let us therefore confess our sin, trusting God's promise of light and grace.

*Silence for personal reflection.*

Leader: O God, you create and sustain all things by your Word.

**People: Your love is manifest throughout your good creation. Indeed, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, so that we might see, hear and know you in ways never before possible. But we do not always trust in that revelation and in your sustaining power. We sometimes doubt that your abundant love will overcome hatred in our world. Forgive our disbelief. Have mercy upon us for our failure to abide in Christ and to walk in his light. Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and from that fullness we have all received grace upon grace. And to all who receive this good news, who believe in Jesus' name, God grants power to become children of God — power to participate in God's own life. Bear that family resemblance into the life of the world, for we are forgiven and restored to walk in the light, set on right paths of justice and peace.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

GOSPEL READING      **John 1:1-18**

MESSAGE              **TO UCSJ WITH LOVE**

PASTOR PAM STOFFERAHN

ANTHEM                ***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (Kathleen Thomerson)**

UCSJ ENSEMBLE

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world;  
The star of my life is Jesus.

**Refrain**

In him there is no darkness at all;  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God:  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**People: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain, and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Alleluia. Amen.**

#### 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.

***Still, Still, Still (Austrian carol)***

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN

*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

## THANKSGIVING AND FAREWELL TO PASTOR PAM AND KEN

### PASTORAL BLESSING

### SENDING SONG

***Joyful, Joyful***

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO, PAUL GLANVILLE, TRUMPET

**(Henry Van Dyke, words; Ludwig van Beethoven, Music)**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever lessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother - all who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

### DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### POST-SERVICE MUSIC

***He is Born (French Carol)***

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

ASSISTING MINISTER: *Bob Larson*  
UCSJ ENSEMBLE: *Dave and Sue Conrad, Fred and Marge Quist, Vince Snowbarger*





## UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS AT UCSJ

### PARTICIPATE IN A WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM:

- Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. – Men’s Group, led by Bob Larson – Join through this link: <https://zoom.us/j/3387893558>  
If you have questions, contact Bob Larson at 970-325-4600.
- Thursdays, 10 a.m. – Women’s Group, led by Donna Whiskeman – Join through this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95452126537> If you have questions, contact Donna Whiskeman at 970-729-0273

### COMMUNITY LEARNING BEGINS JAN. 6 AT 7 PM ON ZOOM

- ◇ *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor
  - ◇ *Resurrecting Easter: How the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision* by John Dominic and Sarah Crossan
  - ◇ *The Pilgrim’s Progress: A Readable, Modern Day Version* by John Bunyan & revised by Alan Vermilye
- Please contact Mick Graff at [mickgraff4@gmail.com](mailto:mickgraff4@gmail.com) if you wish to join one of these online groups.

### *This week we pray...*

- ◇ Happy New Year! We pray for time to reflect and make resolutions that focus our minds and hearts on all that is good around us.
- ◇ Our prayers go with Pastor Pam as she retires.
- ◇ Continue to pray for Pete Whiskeman and Tamara Knutson.
- ◇ Carolyn Stiltner asks for prayers for her 28 year old granddaughter Katie who has Covid.



### 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

Rev. Pam Stofferahn, Pastor  
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### LOCATION

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