

THE
United Church OF THE **San Juans**
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 24, 2021

UCSJ Ensemble: Lisa Young, Sue Conrad, Vince Snowbarger, and Dave Conrad

PRELUDE

Instrumental Improvisation

Katy Kristoffersen

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalms 46

Leader: Freely, and by the grace of God, we gather to worship and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved of God, the Lord Almighty is with us. Come and see the mighty works of the Lord.

All: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Leader: Although the nations are in uproar, God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.

All: Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way and the mountains quake at the roaring waves around us.

Leader: In the midst of all the storms and strife, God speaks to our hearts, saying, "Be still and know that I am God."

All: We hear your voice, O God, inviting us to be still, to trust in you and to worship you, the One, True, Living God. Therefore, we will not fear, for you, the Lord Almighty, are with us and you will help us at the dawn of this new day that you have made.

WELCOMING SONG

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow/Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

(Thomas Ken, words; 'Old 100th', c. 1551)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Refrain

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Praise God in this holy place.
Every nation, every race.
Come, make joyful music to the Lord.
Sound the trumpet, sound it clear.
Sound it for the world to hear.

Come, make joyful music to the Lord. **Refrain**

Everything that breathes now praise;
Sing your songs, let voices raise.
Come, make joyful music to the Lord.
Play the cymbals, play the lute;
Play the timbrel, play the flute.
Come, make joyful music to the Lord. **Refrain**

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Leader: Holy God, our hearts have been troubled by many things in these challenging times. Our faith in you has been tested day after day.

All: We often feel overwhelmed by the ongoing stresses around us and within us....the frustrations we experience resulting from the pandemic, the growing economic uncertainty, so much political change and strife, along with the violent, social unrest...all of these "roaring waves" surround us and unsettle our souls, O God.

Leader: O Lord, we realize that in response to the chaos around, we have become deeply worried and anxious.

All: We have turned our eyes from you, dear Savior, and have set them instead upon our surrounding situations. Our faith in you shrinks and becomes weak.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you have promised, "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age. I will never leave you, nor will I forsake you."

All: Forgive us, gracious God, all our fears, doubts and, yes, our little faith. We admit those moments when we did not seek you, nor call upon you when you were always near us, bidding us to seek you and finding you, to place our faith in you and follow.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Leader: O, good and merciful Shepherd, you know all and forgive all. You want us to seek and find you, to be forgiven by your grace and comforted by your Spirit's ever-searching love.

All: Forgive and cleanse us, empower us and renew us, Spirit of God. Lead us to turn from our wandering ways and seek the Lord while he may be found.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you love us so much that you died and rose for our salvation. Friends, hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are loved, forgiven and renewed to worship and serve the Living God!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 29:10-14

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us bow our hearts before the Lord in prayer.

Gracious God, you give us life and in Christ, your eternal life. You never stop loving us. You want us to ask, seek, knock and find that you are with us, always, no matter the circumstances life brings our way. Thank-you, for your promises to forgive us and cleanse us from all our guilt and shame. Thank-you, faithful and ever-present God, for the renewing and refreshing waters of your life-giving, indwelling Spirit that flow from within our inmost being and flood our souls with God's life. Cause us, O God, to be ever thirsty for your kingdom's righteousness, and ever hungry for your justice and peace through Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:41-52

MESSAGE *Seeking, Finding and Following Jesus*

Reverend Dr. Mike Motsko, Jr.

ANTHEM *Seek the Lord (Roc O'Connor)*

UCSJ Ensemble

Refrain

Seek the Lord whose mercy abounds;
Call aloud to God who is near.

As high as the sky is above the earth,
So high above our ways, the ways of the Lord. **Refrain**

Today is the day and now the proper hour
To forsake our sinful lives and turn to the Lord. **Refrain**

Open your heart to hear the voice of God,
Whose ways lead us to life. **Refrain**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PASTORAL BLESSING

SENDING SONG *Amen, Amen (African-American Spiritual)*

Refrain: Amen, amen, amen, amen.

See the little baby lying in a manger on Christmas morning.

See him at the temple talking to the elders; how they marveled at his wisdom.

See him at the seaside preaching and healing the blind and feeble. Refrain

DISMISSAL Leader: Go in peace. Seek and you will find that the Lord is always with you.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Every Time I Feel the Spirit (African-American Spiritual)*

Paul Glanville, trumpet; Katy Kristoffersen, piano



WELCOME TO WORSHIP
HERE ARE OUR COVID-19 WORSHIP PROTOCOLS

We are so glad you are here. Thank you for helping us keep one another safe and for doing your part to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. Our ushers, greeters and other volunteers will help you maintain appropriate physical distancing and will provide masks if you need them. We ask that you follow their instructions and adhere to the following protocols before, during and after worship. Thank you for doing your part!

If you are exhibiting any symptoms or are not feeling well, please stay at home. We also ask that you stay home if you have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 or if you have been in an area where there is a high infection rate. The typical self-quarantine period is two weeks to help protect others from the spread of the virus.

Masks – All attending in-person services must wear a facial covering (except for those under two or those who have breathing problems). A mask will be provided for anyone who needs one. Masks should remain on during the service and when entering and exiting the worship space.

Physical Distancing – All attendees should maintain a minimum of six feet of distance between family groups. This includes entering and exiting the worship space as well as seating during worship.

Offering – There will be receptacles for your offerings at the entrance and exit doors.

Communion – Communion will be served in pre-packaged servings, distributed by gloved and masked communion servers. All are welcome to partake in this meal, which is the Lord's Supper.

Congregational Singing – We will refrain from congregational singing during the pandemic, but invite you to meditate on the words of hymns that are sung by our worship leaders.

Food and Drink – The church will not be serving food and beverages following worship.

Registration for Worship is Now Required – Please register for worship online at ucsjridgway.org or by calling the church office at (970) 626-5803. Worship service is at 10:00 on Sundays.

Live-streaming – For those who prefer, we will be live-streaming the services so that you can participate safely from home by visiting our Facebook page @www.facebook.com/ucsjridgway or our website at www.ucsjridgway.org where you'll find a link to our Facebook page and a PDF of Sunday's bulletin.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS AT UCSJ

THANK YOU! TO REVEREND DR. MIKE MOTSKO, JR. FOR LEADING OUR SERVICE TODAY!

This week we pray...

- ◆ Mary Mardock is celebrating 92 years old today!
- ◆ Please continue prayers for healing for Ed and Marilyn Beall, Ray Bevier, Tamara Knutson, Ann Glandorf and Tim Stodieck.

USHERS/GREETERS NEEDED! We are thankful for the usher/greeters who have helped us be successful thus far in keeping our sanctuary safe for in person worship services. This responsibility typically takes two people about 10 minutes before worship and 10 minutes afterwards to be accomplished. If you would be willing to help with this, please contact Clayton and Jere Beaudry at (970) 249-1744 or Alice Goertz at (574) 523-1588. You will be mailed the protocols mid-week before your sign-up. This service to our UCSJ family would be very much appreciated!

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, 10:30 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 CONTINUES JAN. 27 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 if you wish to join one of these online groups.

UCSJ OFFICE - (970) 626-5803

Church Office open Wednesdays, 9a.m. to 1 p.m.

CHURCH STAFF

Katy Kristoffersen, Director of Music

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UCSJ Office

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