

THE
United Church OF THE **San Juans**

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 7, 2021

UCSJ Ensemble: *Alice Goertz, Marge Quist, Vince Snowbarger, Fred Quist*

PRELUDE: *Instrumental*

Katy Kristoffersen, piano

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Harry L. Strong

CALL TO WORSHIP

Anna H. Strong

One: God's Angel calls out to us from a Bethlehem hillside:

Many: "Fear not!" he sings, scattering seeds of assurance and hope.

One: God's Prophet calls out to us from the wilderness across the Jordan:

Many: "Turn around!" he shouts!

Listen to God's voice! You are headed in the wrong direction!

One: God's Son calls out to us from the Galilean seashore:

Many: "Follow me!" He pleads.

WELCOME SONG *Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult (vs. 1, 3, 5)*

UCSJ Ensemble

Text: Cecil Alexander, 1852; Tune: Galilee, William H. Jude, 1887

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
Saying "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
Give our hearts to thine obedience,
Serve and love thee best of all.

In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toll and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

UNISON PRAYER

Deacon Robert Larson

(Shared with permission of First Congregational Church, UCC; Prescott, AZ)

Gracious God, we are thankful for Your guidance through the many challenges of this past year. In the midst of social turmoil and a catastrophic pandemic, You have comforted us, encourages us, guided us, and inspired us to hope. You have raised up voices seeking to heal people wearied by disease and discord. You have blessed our church family with able leadership and dedicated members. You have kept Your light shining through us to help brighten the community and world in which we live. We pray for Your continued presence to guide and equip us for the journey ahead. In Christ we pray. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 40:28-31

Deacon Robert Larson

ANTHEM *On Eagle's Wings* (Text: Psalm 91; Tune: Michael Joncas, b. 1951; OCB Publications)

UCSJ Ensemble

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in his shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, "My refuge,
My Rock in whom I trust."

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you not fear,
Under his wings your refuge.
His faithfulness your shield. **Refrain**

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come. **Refrain**

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 1:29-39

Anna H. Strong

SERMON Liminal Space: Being Here - Getting There

Rev. Harry L. Strong

SERMON IN SONG *Three Cries*

(Words and music by Kyle Matthews)

We labored so long in our slavery
We almost forgot who we were
We wandered so long in the desert
We thought freedom must be a curse
We prayed, "O Creator, show us a sign
Just one sign from you
Tell us who we are, where to, what to do

Refrain

*"Fear not!" was the cry from the Bethlehem sky
"Turn around!" was the sound from the wilderness
"Follow me!" was the plea/call from the Galilee
Three Cries! We heard three cries*

The prophets foretold that
A savior was come here to show us the way
So, we raised our hopes without knowing
What shape this messiah would take
We prayed, "O Creator, send us this one
Just one who will guide
And teach us the truths that will lead us to life

Refrain

And look at us now
We're slaves to our fears
But God is still calling
To those who will listen
And follow the voice

Refrain

Fear not, turn around and follow me

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Harry L. Strong; Deacon Robert Larson

The Invitation
The Words of Institution
The Prayer of Preparation
The Bread & The Cup

COMMUNION HYMN *The Other Side* (Avery and Donald Marsh)

Rev. Harry L. Strong

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Help us Accept Each Other (Fred Kaan, words; John Ness Beck, Music)

UCSJ Ensemble

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

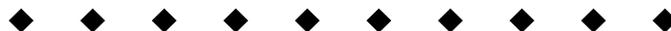
PASTOR'S CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SENT FORTH

POSTLUDE:

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

HERE ARE OUR COVID-19 WORSHIP PROTOCOLS

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-10 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.

Livestreaming – For those who prefer, we will be livestreaming 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS AT UCSJ

THANK YOU TO REV. HARRY L. STRONG FOR LEADING OUR SERVICE TODAY!

This week we pray...

Patty Ratliff's nephew, Frank Henn, is fortunate to be a transplant recipient of both a liver and pancreas. Frank has dealt with diabetes since childhood and now in his mid-forties, received this gift. Keep him in your prayers of gratitude and healing. Continue to pray for healing for Ed and Marilyn Beall, Ray Bevier, Tamara Knutson and Tim Stodieck.

Let us welcome the AmeriCorps group as they start their work on the triplex on north Laura street.

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 FEB 10, 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.

NEW! UCSJ COED BOOK CLUB – TUESDAY, FEB. 23, 10 AM ON ZOOM

The Winter Army: The World War II Odyssey of the 10th Mountain Division, American's Elite Alpine Warriors by Maurice Isserman.
Set at Camp Hale right outside of Leadville and in the Italian Alps. Please let Carolyn Snowbarger know if you want to participate. Copies of the book are available in the gathering area for \$16 or you may wish to order your own copy. Even if you can't join the discussion, you may want to grab this compelling story.

UCSJ OFFICE - (970) 626-5803

Church Office hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

CHURCH STAFF

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

Anita Posey, Administrative Assistant
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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 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