

THE
United Church OF THE **San Juans**

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

UCSJ Ensemble: *Sue Conrad, Marge Quist, Dave Conrad, Vince Snowbarger and Fred Quist*

PRELUDE *Dona Nobis Pacem* (W.A. Mozart)

Leslie McDonel and Katy Kristoffersen

WELCOME

Rev. Wendy Kidd

WELCOMING SONG *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

UCSJ Ensemble

Jesus walked this lonesome valley,
He had to walk it by himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for him,
He had to walk it by himself.

Jesus died on Calvary's mountain;
He died alone for you and me.
O, nobody else could die for sinners;
He had to die for you and me.

Jesus prayed for his disciples;
He prayed alone for you and me.
O, nobody else could bear such sorrow;
He prayed alone for you and me.

Jesus rose from death's dark prison
He lives again for you and me.
O, nobody else could bring us victory;
He is alive to set us free.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Wendy Kidd

Leader: In the days of Noah, God placed a rainbow in the sky
as the sign of a covenant of God's love for all the earth.

**People: In the colors of the rainbow,
we see the sign of God's grace for all creation.**

Leader: In the days of Abram, God changed his name to Abraham
as the sign of a covenant between God and generations to come.

**People: In the "ancestor of a multitude,"
We see the sign of God's love for all humanity.**

Leader: In the days of Moses, the words of God were written on tablets of stone
as the sign of a covenant between God and all of God's people.

**People: In the tablets of stone,
we see the sign of God's hope for each to live in peace with God and neighbor.**

Leader: In the days of the prophet,
God promised to place a new covenant in our hearts.

**People: As members of the living Body of Christ,
we see the sign of God's promise among us.**

(Seekers Church, adapted)

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Rev. Wendy Kidd

Leader: God takes broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness.
God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service.
God listens to our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of grace.
Let us come to the One who pours forgiveness into our lives, together praying:

People: God of the rainbow, you made a covenant with all creation promising life and hope.
You reached into Abraham and Sarah's lives asking them to dream an impossible dream.
And through faith in you, they believed your promises.
Your covenant is never broken, and your love is immeasurable.
Forgive us, God, if we never get beyond thinking of your call on our lives
as an impossible dream or even as an unwelcome interruption.
Forgive us, God, when we find it hard even to hear your promises
above commercial assurances of transformation –
tempting us to trust the newest and trendiest product to realize our dreams.
Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you.
Have mercy on us and forgive us.
Help us when we hesitate and strengthen us when we are weak.
Breathe your Spirit anew into our lives that we may have the courage to follow Jesus wherever he leads us.
Amen.

Silence for personal reflection

Leader: Hear and believe the good news:
God has set up a covenant, over and over again,
choosing us even before we can choose, faithful even when we are faltering.
In the flood, in the wilderness, in exile; in certainty and doubt, abundance and scarcity;
God's promises are true to the thousandth generation.
We see the rainbow, we hear our names, we learn the commandments, we look up for our help, we know in our hearts:
we love because God first loved us, we follow because God first came to us, we can be faithful because God is faithful.

People: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

(The Abingdon Worship Annual 2006 & Rev. Teri Peterson, adapted)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Wendy Kidd

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Leader: Let us pray. Faithful God, you called all creatures into being and you care for each one. Send your grace upon your people gathered here that we may follow your ways of truth and walk in the paths of steadfast love, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 9:8-17; 17:1-7

Rev. Wendy Kidd

ACCLAMATION *The God of Abraham Praise* (Daniel ben Judah, ca. 1400; Traditional Hebrew melody)

UCSJ Ensemble

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before your holy name, forever blest.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name;
Who was, and is, and is to be, fore'er the same!

Your Spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea or land.

MESSAGE

“What’s Covenant Got to do With Lent?”

Rev. Wendy Kidd

ANTHEM *Down to the River to Pray* (Trad., Arr. Sheldon Curry)

UCSJ Ensemble

As I went down to the river to pray,
Studyin’ about that good ol’ way
And who shall wear the starry crown/robe and crown,
Good Lord, show me the way.

Refrain

O sisters/brothers/fathers/mothers, let’s go down,
Let’s go down, come on down.
O sisters/brothers/fathers/mothers, let’s go down
Down to the river to pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Wendy Kidd

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.**

PASTORAL BLESSING

Rev. Wendy Kidd

SENDING SONG *The Old Rugged Cross*

UCSJ Ensemble

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain

*So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For ’twas on that old rugged cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me. **Refrain**

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then he’ll call me some day to my home far away,
Where his glory forever I’ll share. **Refrain**

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. **Refrain**

DISMISSAL

Leader: Walk in the paths of steadfast love and faithfulness.

Dwell under the rainbow of God’s love.

Proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, for God’s realm is near.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen

POSTUDE *Instrumental Improvisation*

Katy Kristoffersen

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS AT UCSJ

THANK YOU TO **REV. WENDY KIDD** FOR LEADING OUR SERVICE TODAY!

Caring for one another...

Let us pray for strength and healing for Jere Beaudry and Dee Moore's friend Melva who both had hip replacements this week. Both Ed & Marilyn Beall have brighter outlooks having received encouraging reports. Continue to lift up those in need of healing, including Rev. Harry Strong, Frank Henn, Ray Bevier and Tamara Knutson.

As we rejoice with the snows bringing moisture to our area, we also pray for those suffering hardships and power outages from the ice and cold, especially in our southern states.

Meals needed....

The AmeriCore team would love some home cooked meals! They are staying in the UCSJ trailer while working on the Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans Tri-Plex. They are a fine group of young adults and it would be great for UCSJ to show our hospitality in this manner. The team has 8 members & will be here for 8 weeks. If you would like to prepare a meal, please contact Kay Sibold at kaysibold@mac.com. Kay will schedule a time and inform you of dietary needs.

Special Congregational Meeting, March 7th

UCSJ Council has called a special congregational meeting for **Mar. 7** immediately following our worship service. Our nominating committee has unanimously recommended Pam Larson to fill the vacancy on council due to Rob Datsko's resignation in December. Pam has agreed to chair our worship & music ministry committee.

If you're unable to attend the meeting, we have four ways you may submit your votes:

- Carolyn Snowbarger has ballots this morning if you haven't already voted.
- You may vote (yes or no) by replying to the email you received earlier this week.
- You may email your vote to Carolyn Snowbarger (carolynsnowbarger@gmail.com).
- You may mail your signed ballot to our church office or hand it to any council member.

All active full and associate members are eligible to vote. Due to COVID and decreased in-person attendance, your vote is especially appreciated in order to meet our bylaws quorum requirements.

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 24, 7 PM VIA 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 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
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