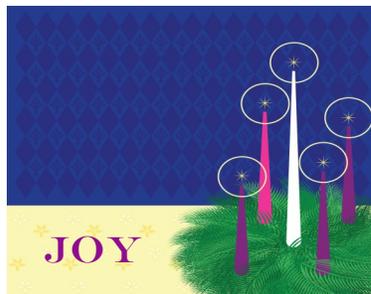


THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 19, 2021

LEADING TODAY'S WORSHIP - *Katy Kristoffersen, Music Director - Rev. Charles Packard, Interim Pastor*

WELCOME

REV. CHARLES PACKARD

PRELUDE *Mary Did You Know?* (Mark Lowry, words; Buddy Greene, music)
HYMN NO. 192

MARGE QUIST

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

REV. CHARLES PACKARD

OPENING WORDS OF SCRIPTURE

*Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!*

ZEPHANIAH 3:14

Pastor: Peace be with you.

People: And also, with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: From the flurry of holiday busyness,

People: We come yearning for lasting joy,

Pastor: From full calendars and hectic schedules,

People: We sing the songs of Advent hope.

Pastor: From the worry of our days,

People: We come to be set free,

Pastor: Be made new,

All: Follow the Prince of Peace, the joy of every longing heart.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, love, and joy, remembering the promises of God with prayer. While we rejoice that Christ is coming, our joy is subdued. Fullness of joy comes with the celebration of Christmas.

Jack & Kay Sibold: We light the first Advent candle in Hope.
We light the second candle for Peace.
We light the third candle for Love.
Today, we light the fourth candle for Joy.

Pastor: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
(ZEPHANIAH 3:14)

**Congregation: Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**
(ISAIAH 12:5-6)

ADVENT PRAYER

Your spirit is upon us, O God, because you have anointed us to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and to comfort all who mourn. This is all your doing and it is wonderful in our sight. As we pass through the portals of your sanctuary we come bringing our hymns of praise and thanksgiving. Be pleased with our worship as we bless your name. Amen.

WELCOMING SONG *I Wonder as I Wander* (Appalachian carol)

CONGREGATION

HYMN NO 225 **All verses**
End with the "Optional Coda"

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBER

Today we joyously receive **Allyson Cotham** as a new member of UCSJ.

SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 12:2-6

SANDY SLOAN

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM*Long Ago, Prophets Knew* (Fred Pratt Green; from Piae Cantiones; arr. K. Kristoffersen)

UCSJ CHOIR

Long ago, prophets knew
 Christ would come, born a Jew,
 Come to make all things new,
 Bear his people's burden,
 Freely love and pardon.

God in time, God in man,
 This is God's timeless plan:
 He will come, as a man,
 Born himself of woman,
 God divinely human. **Refrain**

Refrain

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
(verses 1-3)
When we comes, when we comes,
Who will make him welcome?

Mary hail! Though afraid,
 She believed, she obeyed.
 In her womb, God is laid
 Till the time expected,
 Nurtured and protected. **Refrain**

(verse 4)

Jesus comes, Jesus comes,
We will make him welcome!

Journey ends! Where afar
 Bethlehem shines, like a star,
 Stable door stands ajar:
 Unborn Son of Mary,
 Savior, do not tarry! **Refrain**

SCRIPTURE**PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7**

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Leader: This is the word of our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SERMON***Awaiting the Joy of God***

REV. CHARLES PACKARD

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication
 with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your continued support of the church through your gifts, tithes, and offerings.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The voice of one crying in the wilderness calls us to prepare your way, O Lord. Send us forth with clear minds so that your way is proclaimed with foresight. And grant us your benediction so that our acts are sanctified by your grace. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

DOXOLOGY*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Christ, all people here below;
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
 Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

SENDING SONG *He Is Born* (French carol; arr. Donald P. Hustad)

CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 201 Verse 1: Medium-Loud (mf)
 Verse 2: Soft (p)
 Verse 3: Loud (f)

BLESSING

REV. CHARLES PACKARD

May the Lord bless you and allow true joy to enter your hearts. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Two Carols from the British Isles: What Child Is This?/God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

(Trad. English Melodies; arr. Mark Hayes)

DALE LAIDLAW & KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

REV. CHARLES PACKARD

Pastor: As you leave today, may the Spirit guide you to pray without ceasing for a world so in need of finding true joy.

Congregation: We leave awaiting Christ's coming, and through prayer we find joy in our connection with God.

All: Come Lord Jesus. Amen.

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WE ARE AFFILIATED WITH

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA ~ THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



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