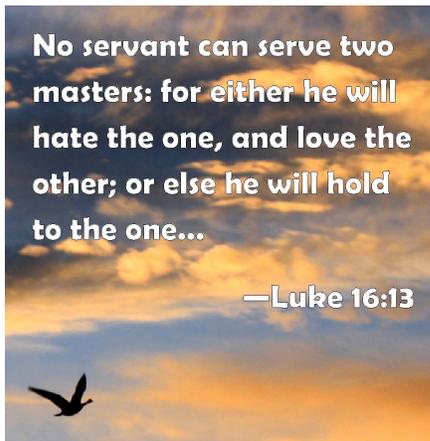


THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

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

MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP

The lesson is clear: no one can serve two masters. If we treasure riches, then we are tempted to pile up as much as possible. If we treasure God, then all that we have is committed to the service of God.

We must decide whom we will serve.

There is no halfway ground.

***from* LUKE 16:1-13**

PRELUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION AND SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

REV. CHARLES PACKARD

WORDS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1

Pastor: Peace be with you.

People: And also, with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.

People: Help us, O God of our salvation; deliver us and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.

Pastor: Let us worship God!

People: Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

Giver of every good and perfect gift, O God, your steadfast love endures forever. You redeem the nations from distress and trouble. You gather your people from the corners of the earth. We enter your courts singing thanksgiving for the bountiful mercies you lavish upon us. Hear our glad praises and be pleased with our worship, for you are worthy of all honor. Amen.

WELCOMING SONG *Step by Step* (Beaker)

CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 494

Sing the whole thing two times

¹⁸ My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick.

¹⁹ Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?")

²⁰ "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

²¹ For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

²² Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

^{9:1} O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM *Power of Love* (Bob Hurd; Arr. K. Kristoffersen)

UCSJ CHOIR

<i>Power of Love, when the light burns low,</i>	<i>Prince of Peace, I will sing your praise,</i>	<i>Lamb of God, my heart overflows,</i>
<i>Let us not be cold to a friend.</i>	<i>I will make your ways my own.</i>	<i>And your Spirit goes where it will.</i>
<i>Power of Love, when the weary call,</i>	<i>Prince of Peace, let us all be one,</i>	<i>Lamb of God, we can never know</i>
<i>Let us give them all they may need.</i>	<i>Let our distance come to an end.</i>	<i>Just how deep and bold love can be.</i>
<i>Power of love.</i>	<i>Prince of Peace.</i>	<i>Lamb of God.</i>

GOSPEL LUKE 16:1-13

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property.

² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.'

³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.

⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'

⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'

⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'

⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.

¹¹ If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?

¹³ No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Leader: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen

MESSAGE

Called to Care

REV. CHARLES PACKARD

...for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

LUKE 16:8

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your continued support of the church and our mission.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Redeemed by Christ and gathered to praise you, we come with thanksgiving, O God our Savior. You relieve our hunger and quench our thirst. You fill us with good things and satisfy our needs. How shall we respond to such goodness and mercy? By committing all that we have to your honor and glory. Accept our offerings and receive our tributes, for they belong to you. 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

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 *For the Fruit of All Creation* (Fred Pratt Green, words; Welsh melody)

CONGREGATION

Hymn No. 723 Verses 1 and 3

BLESSING

*May the God of amazing grace give you eyes to see beauty everywhere,
hands to do good to everyone, and hearts to bless all you meet.*

REV. CHARLES PACKARD

POSTLUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

REV. CHARLES PACKARD

Pastor: Go forth from this place inspired to follow Jesus.

People: We go forth striving to answer the call of Jesus to care for all of God's people.

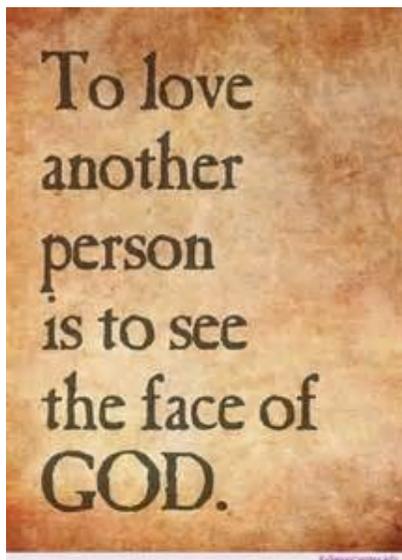
All: Alleluia. Amen.

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*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

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 Christ 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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA ~ THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Rev. Charles Packard, Interim Pastor ucsipastor@gmail.com or revpackard@gmail.com

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

www.ucsjridgway.org . 970-626-5803 . P.O. Box 295 . 295 N. Lena Street . Ridgway CO 81432 . Facebook/UCSJ Ridgway

MUSIC

Katy Kristoffersen, Director
ucsjmusic@gmail.com

OFFICE

Anita Posey, Admin. Assistant
ucsjoffice@gmail.com