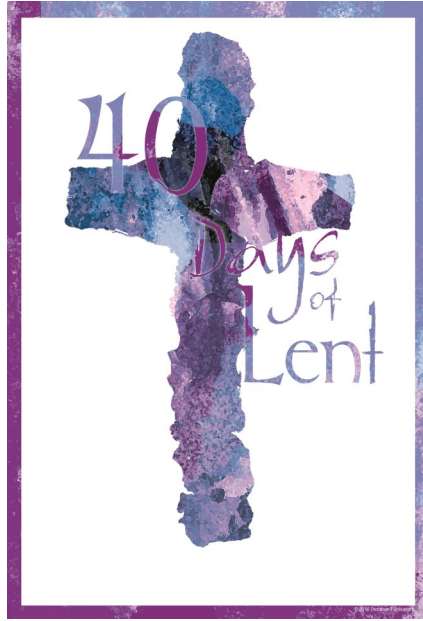


THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

LEADING TODAY'S WORSHIP: *Katy Kristoffersen, Music Director - Rev. Melinda Veatch, Pastor*

MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP

Artist of souls, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting. Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity, that the discipline of these forty days may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship, and whet our thirst for the living water you offer through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR MELINDA VEATCH

PRELUDE *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* (Samuel Trevor Francis, words; Thomas J. Williams, music)

MIKE AND KATY KRISTOFFERSEN

CALL TO WORSHIP

PAM LARSON

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near — a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

People: Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their life has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Leader: Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.

People: Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

Leader: Who knows whether God will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?

People: Let us worship the God who demonstrates grace and mercy, who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Let us worship and praise the God in whom we live and move and have our being!

WELCOMING SONG* *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* (African-American Spiritual)

CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 254 **Verses 1-3**

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

OPENING PRAYER

PAM LARSON

Holy God, we thank you for this opportunity to gather and worship you. You have formed us to be a community of Christ's love. In this time, we ask that you not only remind us of who we are, but that you also strengthen in us our identity as your beloved children. Set our minds to recognize and follow in your Way of Love. Save us from stumbling in self, that our lives might serve and point to our Lord of Love, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

Holy God, we come to you in need of grace, in need of mercy, in need of healing. Forgetting who you have made us to be, we often struggle to walk in your Way. We get caught up in our own vision for our lives. Our plans for our lives blind us to the needs of others. We catalog past hurts, forgetting our own ability to hurt others. In your abounding love, help us, O God. Forgive our brokenness and the ways we break others. Restore us to wholeness in your Holy Spirit that we may be who you have created us to be in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Time of silence

SCRIPTURE GENESIS 2:8-9, 15-17 AND 3:1-7

MARGE QUIST

⁸ "And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

ANTHEM *Sabbath Prayer* (Sheldon Harnick, lyrics; Jerry Bock, music; Arr. John Leavitt)

UCSJ CHOIR

*May the Lord protect and defend you.
May He always shield you from shame.
May you come to be
In Israel a shining name.*

*May God bless you and grant you long lives.
(May the Lord fulfill our Sabbath prayer for you.)
May God make you good mothers and wives.
(May He send you husbands who will care for you.)*

*May you be like Ruth and like Esther.
May you be deserving of praise.
Strengthen them, Oh Lord,
And keep them from the strangers' ways.*

*May the Lord protect and defend you.
May the Lord preserve you from pain.
Favor them, Oh Lord, with happiness and peace.
Oh, hear our Sabbath prayer. Amen.*

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.
³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."
⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,
⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"
⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor;
⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."
¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"
¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Pastor: This is Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

MESSAGE

“Positive I.D.”

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

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

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

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 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* (Claudia F. Hernaman, words; American melody) CONGREGATION
HYMN NO. 252 Verses 1-5

BLESSING

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

May the God in whom we live and move and have our being keep our eyes open and our feet on the Way of Christ.
 And may Christ’s peace that passes all understanding surround and uphold us as we follow in his way.

POSTLUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CHARGE

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

You have been called and named “Beloved” by the One who gives us each breath, so live each day in a way that is true to your name and shows Christ’s love.

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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. Melinda A. Veatch

ucsjpastor@gmail.com

Church Office hours: Tuesday—Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

MUSIC

Katy Kristoffersen, Director
ucsjmusic@gmail.com

OFFICE

Anita Posey, Admin. Assistant
ucsjoffice@gmail.com