

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT
HOLY COMMUNION**

MARCH 5, 2023

LEADING TODAY'S WORSHIP: *Katy Kristoffersen, Music Director; Larry Harley, Worship Leader - Rev. Melinda Veatch, Pastor*

MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP

**There's a thread you follow. It goes among
things that change, but it doesn't change.
People wonder about what you are pursuing.
You have to explain about the thread.
But it is hard for others to see.
While you hold it you can't get lost.
Tragedies happen; people get hurt
or die; and you suffer and get old.
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.
You don't ever let go of the thread.**

“The Way It Is” by William Stafford in *The Way It Is New and Selected Poems*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

PRELUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CALL TO WORSHIP

from PSALM 121

LARRY HARLEY

Leader: I look up to the mountains. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord.
He is the maker of heaven and earth.

**People: He won't let your foot slip. He who watches over you won't get tired. In fact, he who watches over
Israel won't get tired or go to sleep.**

Leader: The Lord watches over you. The Lord is like a shade tree at your right hand. The sun won't harm you during
the day. The moon won't harm you during the night.

People: The Lord will keep you from every kind of harm. He will watch over your life.

Leader: The Lord will watch over your life no matter where you go, both now and forever. Brothers and sisters in
Christ, let us worship God!

WELCOMING SONG* *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* (Elizabeth C. Clephane, words; Frederick C. Maker, music) CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 255

Verses 1-3

***Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

Gracious and loving God, we confess that we struggle to trust you. We put our faith in our own solutions rather than in your vision for our lives. Blinded by our fear and ourselves, we forget to turn to you, and so we fail to wait for you. Forgive the ways we break relationship with you. Open our eyes and tune our hearts, that we might ever be listening and on the lookout for you and that we might trust you enough to put our lives in your capable hands. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Time of silence

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE GENESIS 12:1-4

DEE MOORE

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's family. Go to the land I will show you.

²"I will make you into a great nation.

And I will bless you.

I will make your name great.

You will be a blessing to others.

³I will bless those who bless you.

I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you.

All nations on earth

will be blessed because of you."

⁴So Abram went, just as the LORD had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Harran.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

ANTHEM *The Transfiguration* (Sufjan Stevens; arr. K. Kristoffersen)

UCSJ CHOIR

When he took the three disciples
To the mountainside to pray,
His countenance was modified, his clothing was aflame.
Two men appeared: Moses and Elijah came;
They were at his side.
The prophecy, the legislation spoke of whenever he
would die.

Then there came a word
Of what he should accomplish on the day.
Then Peter spoke, to make of them a tabernacle place.
A cloud appeared in glory as an accolade.
They fell on the ground.
A voice arrived, the voice of God,
The face of God, covered in a cloud.

What he said to them,
The voice of God: "The most beloved Son.
Consider what he says to you, consider what's to come."
The prophecy was put to death,
Was put to death, and so will the Son.
And keep your word, disguise the vision 'till the time
has come.

Lost in the cloud, a voice: "Have no fear! We draw near!"
Lost in the cloud, a sign: "Son of man! Turn your ear."
Lost in the cloud, a voice: "Lamb of God! We draw near!"
Lost in the cloud, a sign: "Son of man! Son of God!"



¹⁻³ So how do we fit what we know of Abraham, our first father in the faith, into this new way of looking at things? If Abraham, by what he did for God, got God to approve him, he could certainly have taken credit for it. But the story we're given is a God-story, not an Abraham-story. What we read in Scripture is, "Abraham entered into what God was doing for him, and that was the turning point. He trusted God to set him right instead of trying to be right on his own."

⁴⁻⁵ If you're a hard worker and do a good job, you deserve your pay; we don't call your wages a gift. But if you see that the job is too big for you, that it's something only God can do, and you trust him to do it—you could never do it for yourself no matter how hard and long you worked—well, that trusting-him-to-do-it is what gets you set right with God, by God. Sheer gift.

¹³⁻¹⁵ That famous promise God gave Abraham—that he and his children would possess the earth—was not given because of something Abraham did or would do. It was based on God's decision to put everything together for him, which Abraham then entered when he believed. If those who get what God gives them only get it by doing everything they are told to do and filling out all the right forms properly signed, that eliminates personal trust completely and turns the promise into an ironclad contract! That's not a holy promise; that's a business deal. A contract drawn up by a hard-nosed lawyer and with plenty of fine print only makes sure that you will never be able to collect. But if there is no contract in the first place, simply a promise—and God's promise at that—you can't break it.

¹⁶ This is why the fulfillment of God's promise depends entirely on trusting God and his way, and then simply embracing him and what he does. God's promise arrives as pure gift. That's the only way everyone can be sure to get in on it, those who keep the religious traditions and those who have never heard of them. For Abraham is father of us all. He is not our racial father—that's reading the story backward. He is our faith father.

¹⁷ We call Abraham "father" not because he got God's attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn't that what we've always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, "I set you up as father of many peoples"? Abraham was first named "father" and then became a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing.

Pastor: This is Word of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE

"It's All on God"

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**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

LARRY HARLEY

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 *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights* (James Gertmenian, words; *Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690) CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 250 Verses 1-3

BLESSING

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

Leader: May our faith and trust in the God who made us and loves us grow each day.

People: **And may the peace that passes all understanding gird our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ.**

POSTLUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CHARGE

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

Leader: Go out in trust and faith.

People: **to love and serve the Lord our God!**

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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



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