

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

APRIL 23, 2023

LEADING TODAY'S WORSHIP:

*Katy Kristoffersen, Music Director; Bob Larson, Worship Leader; Marge Quist, Reader;
Rev. Melinda Veatch, Pastor*

MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP

O Jesus Christ,
Risen, alive and full of grace.
You gave up all the trappings of self that we may live in freedom
from the soul-killing tomb of self today.
We worship your holy name and give thanks for your redeeming grace.

Holy God, Source of all that is and the powerful Love that sets us free,
May we drink in your tender love so that we can pour this love out to others.
Come reign in our hearts, minds and spirits.

Holy Spirit,
We welcome you to blow through our every word, action and thought.
Come transform us on the inside so that each day we become more like our risen Lord.
Be present in our time of worship and in all the hours and days that follow it,
that we might walk with You free of fear, deceit, greed, and arrogance
to share your Life that Truly Is Life
with the world around us in Jesus' name. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR MELINDA VEATCH

PRELUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CALL TO WORSHIP PSALM 116:1-4, 12-14, 17, 19

BOB LARSON

Leader: I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

**People: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and
anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"**

Leader: What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

**People: I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the
presence of all his people. I will offer a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.**

Leader: In the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem, in the sanctuary of this church, sisters and
brothers, let us praise and worship our Living Lord!

HYMN NO. 303

Sing the melody together three times!
Right Side of the church starts the round - sing four times!
Left side of the church enters later...watch Katy - sing four times!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

BOB LARSON

Loving Lord, today we remember the veil of darkness transforming to the brightest light. The most dreadful end becoming the most beautiful beginning. We remember with trembling hearts the depths of despair fading to reveal hope everlasting. The curse of death defeated by eternal life. Today we remember with thankfulness your willingness to be pierced for our sins. We sing with abounding joy of your miraculous rise, from death's tomb to resplendent life. Thank you for the promise of heaven and your generous invitation of eternal life for all. May we live as those who know our life is in you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING ACTS 2:14, 36b-41

MARGE QUIST

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

^{36b} God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM *Rest in God Alone: Psalm 62* (Curtis Stephan)

UCSJ CHOIR

Refrain

*Rest in God alone, rest in God alone,
Rest in God alone, my soul.*

Verse 1

Only in God is my soul at rest;
From him comes my salvation.
He only is my rock
And he only is my salvation,
My stronghold, my stronghold;
I shall not be disturbed at all. **Refrain**

Verse 2

Only in God be at rest, my soul,
For from him comes my hope.
He only is my rock and he only is my salvation,
My stronghold, my stronghold;
I shall not be disturbed. **Refrain**

Verse 3

With God is my safety and my glory,
He is the rock of my strength;
My refuge is in God.
Trust in him at all times, O my people!
Pour out your hearts before him. **Refrain**

¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Walking in the Way

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**

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

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* *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* (Brian Wren, words; Polish folk tune) CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 293 Verses 1 and 2

BLESSING REV. MELINDA VEATCH

Leader: May the blessing of God’s peace fill our hearts and flow out from us into the lives of those in the world around us.

People: **And may that peace give us courage to go out in Christ’s name to show Christ’s love.**

POSTLUDE *Instrumental Music* KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

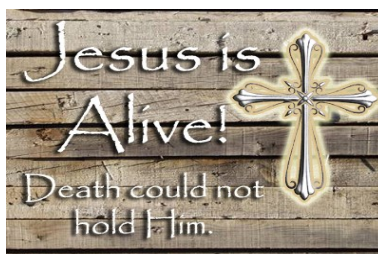
CHARGE REV. MELINDA VEATCH

Leader: Go out in the peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Alleluia! Amen!**

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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA ~ THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



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