

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**

14TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
THE LORD'S SUPPER
SEPTEMBER 3, 2023



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. KERI SHELTON

PRELUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CALL TO WORSHIP

ANGELA TODD

One: Tune up your voices, friends! We're here to give thanks to the Lord!

Many: Like singing to our beloved, we come to sing praise to God.

One: Remember all God has done!

Many: We remember the wonders of creation, the gift of Jesus, and miracles of new life out of death.

One: So with one voice, let's praise God!

All: Hallelujah! Praise the name of the Lord!

WELCOMING SONG* *Blessed Assurance* (Fanny J. Crosby, words; Phoebe P. Knapp, music) CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 426

Verse 1: Medium loud (*mezzo forte*)

Verse 2: Soft (*piano*)

Verse 3: Loud! (*forte*)

OPENING PRAYER

ANGELA TODD

Mighty God, we do praise your name!

From the rising of the sun to the end of this day, may we find ways to focus our hearts and minds on your presence among us. In the challenges and the joys of each day, may we look for ways to glory in your name.

Help us remember and call to this present moment the wonders of all you do to draw us closer to you and to your Realm of Love. AMEN.

- ¹ In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.
² In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.
³ Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
⁴ Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
⁵ For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
⁶ Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb.
 My praise is continually of you.
⁷ I have been like a portent to many, but you are my strong refuge.
⁸ My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all day long.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

ANTHEM *I Know Who Holds Tomorrow* (Ira Stanphill; Arr. Marty Hamby)

UCSJ CHOIR

I don't know about tomorrow,
 I just live from day to day,
 I don't borrow from its sunshine,
 for its skies may turn to gray;

I don't know about tomorrow,
 It may bring me poverty,
 But the One who feeds the sparrow
 Is the One who stands by me;

I don't worry o'er the future,
 For I know what Jesus said,
 And today I'll walk beside Him,
 for He knows what is ahead.

And the path that lies before me,
 May lead through the flame or flood,
 But His presence goes before me,
 And I'm covered by His blood! **Refrain**

Refrain
Many things about tomorrow
I don't see to understand;
But I know who holds tomorrow,
And I know who holds my hand.

SCRIPTURE READING 2 GENESIS 19:1-26

REV. KERI SHELTON

¹The two messengers entered Sodom in the evening. Lot, who was sitting at the gate of Sodom, saw them, got up to greet them, and bowed low. ²He said, “Come to your servant’s house, spend the night, and wash your feet. Then you can get up early and go on your way.” But they said, “No, we will spend the night in the town square.” ³He pleaded earnestly with them, so they went with him and entered his house. He made a big meal for them, even baking unleavened bread, and they ate.

⁴Before they went to bed, the men of the city of Sodom—everyone from the youngest to the oldest—surrounded the house ⁵and called to Lot, “Where are the men who arrived tonight? Bring them out to us so that we may have sex with them.”

⁶Lot went out toward the entrance, closed the door behind him, ⁷and said, “My brothers, don’t do such an evil thing. ⁸I’ve got two daughters who are virgins. Let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them whatever you wish. But don’t do anything to these men because they are now under the protection of my roof.”

⁹They said, “Get out of the way!” And they continued, “Does this immigrant want to judge us? Now we will hurt you more than we will hurt them.” They pushed Lot back and came close to breaking down the door. ¹⁰The men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house with them and slammed the door. ¹¹Then the messengers blinded the men near the entrance of the house, from the youngest to the oldest, so that they groped around trying to find the entrance.

¹²The men said to Lot, “Who’s still with you here? Take away from this place your sons-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and everyone else you have in the city ¹³because we are about to destroy this place. The Lord has found the cries of injustice so serious that the Lord sent us to destroy it.”

¹⁴Lot went to speak to his sons-in-law, married to his daughters, and said, “Get up and get out of this place because the Lord is about to destroy the city.” But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

¹⁵When dawn broke, the messengers urged Lot, “Get up and take your wife and your two daughters who are here so that you are not swept away because of the evil in this city.” ¹⁶He hesitated, but because the Lord intended to save him, the men grabbed him, his wife, and two daughters by the hand, took him out, and left him outside the city.

¹⁷After getting them out, the men said, “Save your lives! Don’t look back! And don’t stay in the valley. Escape to the mountains so that you are not swept away.”

¹⁸But Lot said to them, “No, my lords, please. ¹⁹You’ve done me a favor and have been so kind to save my life. But I can’t escape to the mountains since the catastrophe might overtake me there and I’d die. ²⁰This city here is close enough to flee to, and it’s small. It’s small, right? Let me escape there, and my life will be saved.”

²¹He said to Lot, “I’ll do this for you as well; I won’t overthrow the city that you have described. ²²Hurry! Escape to it! I can’t do anything until you get there.” That is why the name of the city is Zoar.

²³As the sun rose over the earth, Lot arrived in Zoar; ²⁴and the Lord rained down burning asphalt from the skies onto Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁵The Lord destroyed these cities, the entire valley, everyone who lived in the cities, and all of the fertile land’s vegetation. ²⁶When Lot’s wife looked back, she turned into a pillar of salt.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

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

SERMON

“The Stories We Tell”

REV. KERI SHELTON

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

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**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Ever-giving God, because we are your beloved creatures, we know you’ve first given us such abundance: air, water, land, love, life. In gratitude, we now offer you a portion of what you’ve given to us.

Accept our gifts, Holy One, as signs of our love for you and our desire to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Help us use these resources to share your Good News with those who struggle to live. AMEN.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

*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.

CLOSING SONG* *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (Joseph M. Scriven, words; Charles C. Converse, music) CONGREGATION

Hymn No. 473 All Verses

CHARGE AND BLESSING

REV. KERI SHELTON

POSTLUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

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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



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