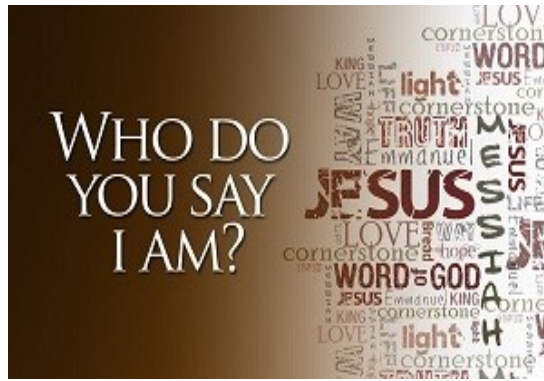


THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



15TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

MEDITATION

“The way of Jesus cannot be imposed or mapped - it requires an active participation in following Jesus as he leads us through sometimes strange and unfamiliar territory, in circumstances that become clear only in the hesitations and questionings, in the pauses and reflections where we engage in prayerful conversation with one another and with him.”

– *Eugene H. Peterson, The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways That Jesus Is the Way*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR MELINDA VEATCH

PRELUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CALL TO WORSHIP

JOAN MOYER

Leader: Friends, we gather today to worship the Living God.

People: Jesus Christ shows us who God is.

Leader: God’s love for us is as broad as the universe and as specific as a sparrow.

People: Jesus Christ shows us who God is.

Leader: God’s power tames the fiercest storm, yet is as tender as the breath of a newborn child.

People: Jesus Christ shows us who God is.

Leader: God’s vision calls us out of what has been into the adventure of what is and what will be.

People: Jesus Christ shows us who God is.

Leader: God’s grace heals us and allows our lives to be shaped and transformed by love.

People: Jesus Christ shows us who God is.

Leader: God’s generosity moves us to share God’s healing life and love with the world around us.

People: Jesus Christ shows us who God is.

Leader: Let us worship and give thanks to God today --

People: because God has claimed us as disciples of Jesus Christ, gifted us with love, and empowered us to show others who God is as we share God’s love with a hurting world.

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us worship and give God our thanks and praise!

WELCOMING SONG* *Here I Am, Lord* (Daniel L. Schutte)

CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 559

Verses 1 and 2

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

Loving God, today we come into your Presence to worship you. We are so grateful for your love and grace in our lives. We see you as we are gathered here – we are so different, yet you have made us one in your Spirit. We see you as your Son, Jesus Christ, preaches and teaches, heals and sets free. You speak to our hearts and our minds as we sing and pray. We see you at work in our lives and in the lives of those we love. We know you are with us, leading and guiding us in your love and grace. In this time of worship, open our hearts to your Spirit. Take all that you have given us and shape it in your service. May we be part of all the ways you are at work in this hurting world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

LIZ KUEHLING

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

ANTHEM *Abba Father* (Carey Landry)

UCSJ CHOIR

Refrain

Abba, Abba, Father.

You are the potter,

We are the clay,

The work of your hands.

Mold us, mold us and fashion us

Into the image of Jesus, your Son. **Refrain**

Father, may we be one in you.

As He is in you and you are in Him. **Refrain**

Glory, glory and praise to you. Forever, amen! **Refrain**

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. ²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’ ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

In the Know

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

JOAN MOYER AND REV. MELINDA VEATCH

*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* *Borning Cry* (John C. Ylvisaker)

CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 680 All Verses

CLOSING PRAYER

JOAN MOYER

Gracious and Loving God, we thank you that you have called us into discipleship. We thank you that we know who you are and whose we are. Keep us focused on you. Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and our minds to your guidance and to those in the world around us. Give us hearts to share who you are as we act with your love in this hurting world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CHARGE AND BLESSING

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

SENDING SONG* *From "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" – verse 3*

CONGREGATION

*Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother — all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.*

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

(Songs and Music under One License #735313. Music is reprinted under copyright license CCLI11233542)

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 & Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 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