

THE  
**United Church**  
OF THE **San Juans**



**16TH SUNDAY**  
**AFTER PENTECOST**  
**SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

**MEDITATION**

*“I don’t do great things. I do small things with great love.  
Never worry about numbers.  
Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.  
– Mother Teresa*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PASTOR MELINDA VEATCH

**PRELUDE** *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

KAY SIBOLD

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.

**People: It is a small seed, but has some surprises in store for us.**

Leader: When it is grown, it is a very large shrub.

**People: Even the birds can find places in its branches for their nests.**

Leader: God’s transforming love begins in small ways to enter our hearts, yet it works big changes in our lives.

**People: We give thanks God has given us this transforming love to share. We are blessed to be a blessing.**

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us worship and praise the Lord our God!

**WELCOMING SONG\*** *Seek Ye First* (Karen Lafferty)

CONGREGATION

**HYMN NO. 349**

All sing the "Alleluia" part first

Verse 1 together

Verse 2 together

Then, choose between singing Verse 1 or the Alleluia!

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

KAY SIBOLD

Gracious God, we come to you this day. We seek your Word and your will for our lives. Make us people who care deeply about those in the world around us. Shape us so that sharing your love becomes the central focus of our lives. Give us courage to do small things with great love, that we might be seeds of hope and peace in a hurting world. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

ANTHEM *More Precious Than Silver* (Lynn DeShazo; Arr. K. Kristoffersen)

UCSJ CHOIR

*Lord, you are more precious than silver.*

*Lord, you are more costly than gold.*

*Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds,*

*And nothing I desire compares with you.*

SCRIPTURE READING 2 MATTHEW 31:31-33, 44-46

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

<sup>31</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup> He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

*Small Things, Big Impact*

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

KAY SIBOLD AND REV. MELINDA VEATCH

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\* *The Trees of the Field* (Stefi Geiser Rubin, words; Stuart Dauermann, music) CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 710 Sing through two times!

CLOSING PRAYER

KAY SIBOLD

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 living out your love as the most important thing we can do. Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and our minds to your guidance and to those around us. May we speak and 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.*

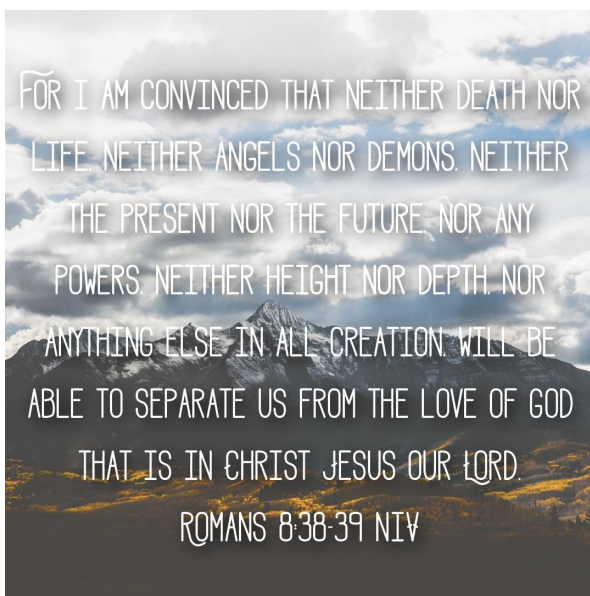
\*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

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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



**Rev. Melinda A. Veatch**

**[ucsjpastor@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:ucsjmusic@gmail.com)

## OFFICE

Anita Posey, Admin. Assistant  
[ucsjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjoffice@gmail.com)