

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**20TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

OCTOBER 15, 2023

MEDITATION

*O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and the stars which you have set in place,
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
their children that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet, ...
O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
– Psalm 8:1, 3-6, 9*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR MELINDA VEATCH

PRELUDE *Instrumental Music*

SUE CONRAD, HORN; KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CALL TO WORSHIP

JOAN MOYER

Leader: Our God has made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.

People: We are awed by God's creative power. We see and trust that God is good.

Leader: God has called us into a partnership of care with God, with one another, with the world.

People: We celebrate that God has entrusted us to live out the goodness of God in the world

Leader: As we live the Way of Christ, we make God's goodness real to those around us.

People: We give thanks that God has given us the power to bring goodness into the lives of others.

Leader: As we worship today, let us give thanks for the ways Christ's Spirit works through us.

People: Let us worship and celebrate God!

WELCOMING SONG* *For the Fruit of All Creation* (Fred Pratt Green, words; Welsh melody) CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 723

All Verses

PRAYER OF PRAISE

JOAN MOYER

Gracious God, we ask the blessing of your presence with us as we worship you today. Your Spirit gives us life. Remind us of how deeply we need you to live well. Give us the grace to live each day with gratitude and humility. Help us to see others as you do, with eyes of compassion. Show us how to walk with and work with others to carry your grace and compassion into a hurting world.

May our joy in living your way draw others into life in your Spirit.

We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

¹⁹⁻²¹ It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

²²⁻²³ But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

²³⁻²⁴ Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

²⁵⁻²⁶ Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM *Canticle of the Sun* (Marty Haugen)

UCSJ CHOIR

Refrain

*The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!*

1. Praise for the sun, the bringer of day,
He carried the light of the Lord in his rays;
The moon and the stars who light up the way unto your throne.
2. Praise for the wind that blows through the trees,
The seas' mighty storms, the gentlest breeze;
They blow where they will, they blow where they please to please the Lord.
3. Praise for the rain that waters our fields,
And blesses our crops so all the earth yields;
From death until life her mystery revealed springs forth in joy!

Congregation - Join in on verse 4 and final refrain!

4. Praise for the fire who gives us his light,
The warmth of the sun to brighten our night;
He dances with joy, his spirit so bright, he sings of you!

¹ Let me sing for my well beloved a song of my beloved about his vineyard. My beloved had a vineyard on a very fruitful hill. ² He dug it up, gathered out its stones, planted it with the choicest vine, built a tower in its midst, and cut out a winepress therein. He looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

³ “Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, please judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴ What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? Why, when I looked for it to yield grapes, did it yield wild grapes?

⁵ Now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will take away its hedge, and it will be eaten up. I will break down its wall of it, and it will be trampled down. ⁶ I will lay it a wasteland. It won't be pruned nor hoed, but it will grow briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain on it.”

⁷ For the vineyard of Yahweh of Hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: And he looked for justice, but, behold, oppression; for righteousness, but, behold, a cry of distress.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

SERMON

The Planter's Plan

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

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* *We Labor Under Glory* (Craig Harris, Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell)

CONGREGATION

SEE INSERT

All Verses

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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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA ~ THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



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