

THE
United Church
OF THE San Juans



1ST SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

THE LORD'S SUPPER
JANUARY 7, 2024

MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP

The birth of Christ in our souls is for a purpose beyond ourselves: it is because His manifestation in the world must be through us. Every Christian is, as it were, part of the dust-laden air which shall radiate the glowing Epiphany of God, catch and reflect His golden Light. Ye are the light of the world—but only because you are enkindled, made radiant by the One Light of the World. And being kindled, we have got to get on with it, be useful. As Christ said in one of His ironical flashes, “Do not light a candle in order to stick it under the bed!” [Mark 4:21] . . .

— *daily online meditation from the Center for Action and Contemplation, December 21, 2021*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

PRELUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CALL TO WORSHIP *from ISAIAH 60:1-3, 6*

JOAN MOYER

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD shall arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Leader: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

People: We give thanks for the light and life we have in Jesus Christ! Let us worship God!

WELCOMING SONG* *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* (Louis F. Benson, words; English melody) CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 242

Verse 1: Medium-Loud

Verse 2: Softly

Verse 3: Joyfully

PRAYER OF PRAISE

JOAN MOYER

Holy God, you have gifted the church through the goodness of your grace
to be your hands and do your work,

to be your voice and share your words,

to bring healing to a fallen world and make broken lives whole.

You have gifted your people with the blessings of your Spirit,
the power to transform lives and make all things new.

Now may our hearts receive, our mouths proclaim, and our hands prepare for service,
that the love we have known might overflow the lives we live

and pour into the hearts of others,

that all might receive your Grace, your renewing Spirit, and your love. Amen.

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the
oppressor.
⁵ May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all
generations.

⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
¹² For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

ANTHEM *From a Distant Home/De Tierra Lejana Venimos* (Puerto Rican carol; Arr. K. Kristoffersen)

From a distant home the Savior we come seeking,
Using as our guide the star so brightly beaming.

Glowing gold I bring the newborn babe so holy,
Token of his power to reign above in glory. **Refrain**

Refrain
Lovely eastern star that tells us of God's morning,
Heaven's wondrous light, O never cease your shining!
Glory in the highest to the Son of Heaven,
And upon the earth be peace and love to all.

Frankincense I bring the child of God's own choosing,
Token of our prayers to heaven ever rising. **Refrain**

Bitter myrrh have I to give the infant Jesus,
Token of the pain that he will bear to save us. **Refrain**

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.
⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

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*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

JOAN MOYER AND REV. MELINDA VEATCH

CLOSING SONG* *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (Kathleen Thomerson)

CONGREGATION

Hymn No. 248 All Verses

CLOSING PRAYER

JOAN MOYER

Holy God, in a world infused with anger, despair, hopelessness, and fear, we seek joy in your Spirit. The eyes of our hearts are focused on the darkness, adjust them to see your light that cannot be overcome. Help us to follow your light, to live in your light, to bring your light and your joy into the darkness of a hurting world. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

CHARGE AND BLESSING

REV. MELINDA VEATCH

SENDING SONG* *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* Verses 1 and 4 of Hymn 231

CONGREGATION

*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.
Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.*

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*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

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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