

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



**FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN LENT**

**MARCH 17, 2024**

**MEDITATION**

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

– George Washington Carver

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PASTOR MELINDA VEATCH

**PRELUDE** *Instrumental Music*

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN, PIANO

**CALL TO WORSHIP** - *Adapted from Psalm 25*

MICHAEL MOORE

Leader: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs us in his ways.

**People: When we seek the Lord, he is right there, patiently teaching us to walk in his Spirit, no matter how much we stumble.**

Leader: God's great mercy and love are from of old. God does not remember the sins of our youth or the ways we have gone off on our own in the past. God will not reject or put to shame those who hope in him.

**People: All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who seek to walk in his ways. God's integrity and righteousness transform those who hope in his grace.**

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us worship God!

**WELCOMING SONG\*** *Gather Us In* (Marty Haugen)

CONGREGATION

**HYMN NO. 649** All Verses

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

MICHAEL MOORE

Holy God, this is the day that you have made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it. We are grateful for your love, which calls us from darkness into light. We give thanks for your forgiveness and your grace which bring us into new life. We gather this day to worship you and to celebrate the life we share in your Spirit. Strengthen us to live from your love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Draw us nearer to you that we may walk in the Ways of your Spirit and carry your light and your joy out into the world. Amen.

\*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

<sup>1</sup>“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup>For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

<sup>3</sup>“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

ANTHEM *I Believe* (Mark Miller)

MIKE KRISTOFFERSEN, STRING BASS

*I believe in the sun*

*I believe in love*

*I believe in God*

*I believe in the sun*

*I believe in love*

*I believe in God*

*Even when,*

*Even when,*

*Even when,*

*even when it's not shining*

*even when I don't feel it*

*even when God is silent*

SCRIPTURE READING MATTHEW 18:21-35

PASTOR MELINDA VEATCH

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

<sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup> “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ <sup>27</sup> The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. <sup>28</sup> “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

<sup>29</sup> “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

<sup>30</sup> “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

<sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup> “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’

<sup>34</sup> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup> “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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.*

OFFERTORY SPECIAL MUSIC *Hashivenu* (Israeli Folk Song, from Lamentations v:21; Arr. Dorren Rao) UCSJ CHOIR

**Hashivenu, hashivenu Adonai elecha  
Venashuva, venashuva  
Chadesh, chadesh yameinu keke dem.**

Translation: "Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old."

## 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*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MICHAEL MOORE AND PASTOR 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\* *Seek Ye First* (Will L. Thompson)

CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 348 Verse 1 and Verse 2: Slowly and Softly  
Repeat Verse 1 and Verse 2: Growing Louder and Slightly Faster

## CLOSING PRAYER

MICHAEL MOORE

Holy God, we have gathered in this place to worship you and to celebrate our life in you. We give you thanks for the gift of life in your Holy Spirit. Walk with us as we go from this place. Grow our ability to trust in you and to carry your love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness out in the world. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## A MOMENT FOR GRATITUDE

POSTLUDE *Happy Trails* (Dale Evans) - *to Marge and Fred Quist*

ALL SING!

*Some trails are happy ones, others are blue.  
It's the way you ride the trail that counts;  
Here's a happy one for you.*

*Happy trails to you, until we meet again.  
Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then.*

*Who cares about the clouds when we're together?  
Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather.  
Happy trails to you, 'til we meet again. (Repeat chorus!)*

SENDING SONG *Christ The Eternal Lord* (Timothy Dudley-Smith, words; George J. Elvery, music)

HYMN NO. 335 Verse 4

*Christ the unfading Light of everlasting day,  
Our morning star in splendor bright, the Life, the Truth, the Way;  
That light of truth you give to servants as to friends,  
Your way to walk, your life to live, till earth's brief journey ends.*

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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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Church Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm.

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