

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



**8TH SUNDAY  
OF PENTECOST  
IN ORDINARY  
TIME  
JULY 7, 2024**

**MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP**

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

- Matthew 6:22-23

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”

– Helen Keller

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**PRELUDE**

Ron and Dee James

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Joan Moyer

Leader: We come today to worship the God who envisions for us a future with hope.

**People: We have faith in that future through Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God always with us.**

Leader: We celebrate God’s Presence and God’s guidance in every aspect of our lives.

**People: We praise the God who has blessed us with breath and life, with joy and fullness.**

Leader: Let us worship God together!

**WELCOMING SONG\***

**Open My Eyes, That I May See**

(Clara H. Scott)

**Hymn No. 480**

All Verses

Congregation

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Joan Moyer

**Holy God, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. You see possibilities for our lives that we are unable to even imagine. We give you thanks for the vision you have for our lives. We praise you for your plans to bring us a future with hope. Help us to stay open to that future. Forgive the fear that often clouds our ability to see. Keep us focused on your light that darkness cannot overcome. Grow our trust in your life that defeats death. May we celebrate that life as we walk each day with Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.**

\*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

“How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

“Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

**Eye Has Not Seen** (Marty Haugen)

UCSJ Choir

*Eye has not seen, ear has not heard  
What God has ready for those who love him;  
Spirit of love, come, give us the mind of Jesus,  
Teach us the wisdom of God.*

*When pain and sorrow weigh us down,  
Be near to us, O Lord,  
Forgive the weakness of our faith,  
And bear us up within your peaceful word. **Refrain***

*Our lives are but a single breath,  
We flower and we fade,  
Yet all our days are in your hands.  
So we return in love what love has made. **Refrain***

*To those who see with eyes of faith,  
The Lord is ever near,  
Reflected in the faces  
Of all the poor and lowly of the world. **Refrain***

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

#### A Line to Sight

Pastor 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

Pastor Melinda Veatch

#### DOXOLOGY\*

Congregation

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen*

#### COMING TO THE TABLE

Paster Melinda Veatch

##### Invitation

##### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the to the Lord our God.

**People: 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 and Communion Song

Hymn No. 699

Let Us Break Bread Together

(African-American spiritual)

All Verses

Congregation

Prayer after Communion

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joan Moyer and Pastor Melinda Veatch

CLOSING SONG\*

Be Thou My Vision

(Irish hymn, 8thC.; Irish Melody)

Hymn No. 502

All Verses

Congregation

CLOSING PRAYER

Joan Moyer

**Holy God, you call us to lives that extend beyond ourselves. Inspire our minds as we engage with others. Open our eyes to see you at work in the world. Keep us focused on serving you, and help us to carry and share your love as we keep walking through this hurting world. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Ron and Dee James

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor Melinda Veatch

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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: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to 1pm.

[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

Shirley Didier, Admin. Assistant  
[ucsjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjoffice@gmail.com)