

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**10TH SUNDAY
OF PENTECOST
IN ORDINARY
TIME
JULY 21, 2024**

Meditation before Worship

We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.

– Epictetus

If we have listening ears, God speaks to us in our own language, whatever that language be.

– Mahatma Ghandi

So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God

– Romans 10:37

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental Music

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joan Moyer

Leader: We come to worship the God who created us in his image, who gave us ears to hear.

People: The God who created us has ears that are always tuned to us.

Leader: Before we call out, God answers us; before we have finished speaking, God knows the fullness of our need. (Is 65:24)

People: When we turn our full attention to God's Way; when we tune our ears to the Word of God, we can fully hear God's guidance and counsel and walk in God's Way. (Jer 29:12-13)

Leader: We know that when we have no words to express our pain, God's Spirit takes our concerns in groanings to God's listening and compassionate ear.

People: Let us worship the God who listens and leads us in the Way of Life!

Leader: Let us worship God together!

WELCOMING SONG*

Lord of the Dance

(Sydney Carter, words; Shaker melody, 19th c.)

Hymn No. 118

Verse 1: All

Verse 2: Women

Congregation

Verse 3: Men

Verse 4: All

Verse 5: All

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Joan Moyer

Holy God, your ear is always open to us as we seek to follow you. We give thanks for your careful listening. We are grateful for the ways you hear us in each moment of our lives. Forgive the ear we give to the clamoring voices of the world. Pardon the way we listen to the whisper-roar of fear that causes us to doubt you. Keep us focused on your voice that calls us to life. Tune our ears to your steady and trustworthy counsel. As we follow your voice, focus us on that light that darkness cannot overcome. Grow our trust in your life that defeats death. May we celebrate and proclaim that life as we walk each day with Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." At that, Paul left the Council. Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: **City of God** (Daniel L. Schutte; Choral Setting by Jane Holstein)

UCSJ Choir

*Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night*

*We're sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The one who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
A light for his people to set their hearts free. **Refrain***

Refrain

*Let us build the city of God.
May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love,
Has turned the night into Day!*

*God is light; in him there is no darkness
Let us walk in his light, his children one and all
Oh comfort my people; make gentle your words.
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth.
O city of gladness, now life up your voice!
Proclaim the good tidings that all may rejoice! **Refrain***

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:18-23 (*The Message*)

Pastor Melinda Veatch

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Listen to Hear and Live

Pastor Melinda Veatch

RESPONSIVE SONG*

City of God

(Daniel L. Schutte; Choral Setting by Jane Holstein)

See Insert

Congregation

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*

*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

Joan Moyer 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*

We Are Marching/Siyahamba

(Zulu melody, South African Traditional)

Congregation

We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching*, marching we are marching,
Ooh we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching we are marching.
Ooh we are marching in the light of God.

Verse 2: We are walking...

Verse 3: We are dancing...

Verse 4: We are singing...

Verse 5: We are living...

***Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable**

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. Open our mouths to proclaim your grace and goodness. Open our ears to receive your counsel and guidance every day. Keep us focused on serving you in word and deed, and help us to carry and share your love as we keep walking through this hurting world. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Instrumental Music

Katy Kristoffersen

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



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