

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**15TH SUNDAY
OF PENTECOST
IN ORDINARY
TIME
AUGUST 25, 2024**

Meditation before Worship

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.

- C.S. Lewis

Pride is concerned with who is right. Humility is concerned with what is right.

- Ezra Taft Benson

Pride builds walls between people. Humility builds bridges.

- Rick Warren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Sue Conrad, horn; Katy Kristoffersen, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dee Moore

Leader: We come today to present ourselves as a living offering to the God who says, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.”

People: We offer ourselves to God.

Leader: We come today to present ourselves to the God who calls us to let love be genuine, to hate what is evil and hold fast to what is good, to outdo one another in showing honor.

People: We offer ourselves to God.

Leader: We come today to worship the God who exalts the humble and humbles the exalted, who calls us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep, to live in harmony with one another.

People: Let us praise and worship God together!

WELCOMING SONG* The Lord My Shepherd Guards Me Well (Carl P. Daw, Jr., words; James L. Bain, music)

Hymn No. 73

All Verses - gradually getting louder each verse

Congregation

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Dee Moore

Holy God, the mountains fade in comparison to your majesty. We see your glory in the brilliance of the sunrise. We see your majesty as we behold the stars. Yet, you are as close as our breath. You are in the middle of our daily lives. You could parade your power. Instead you choose to walk with us the path of our life. We give you thanks, O God, that our lives are grounded in you. Keep us walking with you as we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM:

We Are Called (David Haas)

UCSJ Choir

*Come, live in the light.
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord.
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God.*

*Come, open your heart.
Show your mercy to all those in fear.
We are called to be hope for the hopeless.
So all hatred and blindness will be no more. **Refrain***

Refrain

*We are called to act with justice.
We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God.*

*Sing, sing a new song.
Sing of that great day when all will be one;
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love. **Refrain***

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 23:1-12 (*The Message*)

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON	Walking the Free Way	Pastor Melinda Veatch
RESPONSIVE SONG	Make Me a Servant	(Kelly Willard)
Hymn No. 576	Sing two times through	Congregation
RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS		
<i>Thank you for your continued support of the church and our mission.</i>		
PRAYER OF DEDICATION		Pastor Melinda Veatch
DOXOLOGY*	<i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.</i>	
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE		Dee 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*	Sing a New Church	Delores Dufner, words; Joyn Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music)
Hymn No. 577		Congregation
	Verse 1: All	
	Verse 2: Women	
	Verse 3: Men	
	Verse 4: All	
CLOSING PRAYER		Dee Moore
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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***Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable**

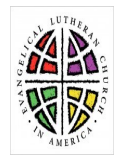
OUR MISSION

- 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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