

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**16TH SUNDAY
OF PENTECOST
IN ORDINARY
TIME
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP

Reconciliation is a decision that you make in your heart.

- Ingrid Betancourt

The practice of peace is one of the most vital and artistic of human actions.

- Thich Naht Hanh

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Then Sings My Soul

(Trad. Swedish melody; Arr. Gary Lanier)

Don Williams, trumpet; Joshua Williams, violin; Katy Kristoffersen, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Vince Snowbarger

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ, we come today celebrating, because now in Christ Jesus we who have been far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

People: **For he is our peace. He has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility that separates us from one another.**

Leader: He came and proclaimed peace to those who were far off and peace to those who were near. Through him, we have access in one Spirit to the God who has created us.

People: **So then, we are no longer strangers, but in Jesus Christ we are brought together as members of the household of God. Let us praise and worship God together!**

WELCOMING SONG*

O God of Every Nation

(William W. Reid, R., words; Welsh melody)

Hymn No. 626

All Verses

Congregation

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Vince Snowbarger

Your lifegiving Word and Spirit have conquered the powers of sin and death, which try to separate us from you. In Jesus Christ, you have brought down the dividing walls of hatred, hostility, and bitterness. As we follow him, you call us to be peacemakers. Help us to bring peace everywhere we go, that we might embody understanding, loving acceptance, and reconciliation in a hurting world. Amen.

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.” Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

But the Lord said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. So Cain went out from the Lord’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM:

Softly and Tenderly

(Will L. Thompson)

UCSJ Choir, Don Williams, trumpet, Mike Kristoffersen, string bass

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading

Calling for you and for me:

Pleading for you and for me?

See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching,

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,

Watching for you and for me. Refrain

Mercies for you and for me? Refrain

O for the wonderful love he has promised,

Promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon

Pardon for you and for me. Refrain

Refrain

Come home, home home, ye who are weary come home;

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,

Calling, O sinner, come home!

SCRIPTURE READING**Matthew 5:21-26**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”

“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**Bridge-Builders in a Broken World**

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*

*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

Pastor 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**Let Us Break Bread Together**

(African-American spiritual)

*Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun
O Lord, have mercy on me*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Prayer after Communion

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Vince Snowbarger and Pastor Melinda Veatch

CLOSING SONG*

Amazing Love

(Graham Kendrick)

Hymn No. 259

All Verses

Congregation

CLOSING PRAYER

Vince Snowbarger

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

Awesome God

Rich Mullins; Arr. Sharon Wilson)

Don Williams, trumpet; Joshua Williams, violin; Katy Kristoffersen, piano

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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