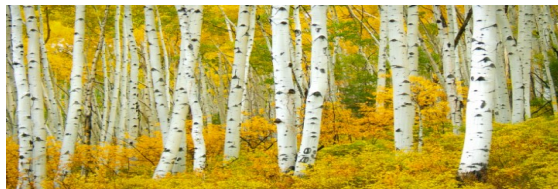


THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**18TH SUNDAY
OF PENTECOST
IN ORDINARY
TIME
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**

Meditation before Worship

Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.

– C. S. Lewis

Like tiny seeds with potent power to push through tough ground and become mighty trees,
we hold innate reserves of unimaginable strength. We are resilient.

– Catherine DeVrye

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pam Larson

Leader: In our lives, we have walked through green pastures and through desert wastelands.

People: God has walked with us through it all.

Leader: In our lives, we have followed on level paths and climbed rugged mountains.

People: God has guided us all the way.

Leader: In our lives, we have enjoyed gentle breezes and weathered raging storms.

People: God has been with us in it all. Let us worship the God who is ever with us!

WELCOMING SONG*

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

(Cesareo Gabarain)

Hymn No. 347

Verses 1, 2 and 3

Congregation

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Pam Larson

Leader: Holy God, in each moment of our lives, you are with us. Your grace covers us. Your Spirit guides us.

People: We give you thanks for your Presence with us.

Leader: Whether we are beside still waters or seeking shelter from torrential storms, you are ever our Shepherd, leading us in green pastures AND guiding us through the valleys of shadow.

People: We give you thanks for your Presence with us.

Leader: In this time of worship – in these moments together – help us to recognize all the ways you keep calling us to come out of ourselves and follow you. Open our hearts to enter into your healing work in a hurting world.

People: We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. . . . For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but the not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. . . . So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM:

The Kingdom Is Yours

UCSJ Choir

(Dee Wilson, Brittney Spencer, Michah Massey and Aaron Keyes; Arr. K. Kristoffersen)

Blessed are the ones who do not bury, all the broken pieces of their heart.

Blessed are the tears of all the weary, pouring like a sky of falling stars.

Blessed are the wounded ones in mourning, brave enough to show the Lord their scars.

Blessed are the hurts that are not hidden: Open to the healing touch of God.

Refrain

The Kingdom is yours, the Kingdom is yours.

Hold on a little more, this is not the end.

Hope is in the Lord, keep your eyes on Him.

Blessed are the ones who walk in kindness. Even in the face of great abuse.

Blessed are the deeds that go unnoticed; serving with unguarded gratitude.

Blessed are the ones who fight for justice; longing for the coming day of peace.

Blessed is the soul that thirsts for righteousness; welcoming the last, the lost, the least. Refrain

Blessed are the ones who suffer violence, and still have strength to love their enemies.

Blessed is the faith of those who persevere. Though they fall, they'll never know defeat. Refrain

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 15:4-11

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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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