

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



**20TH SUNDAY  
OF PENTECOST  
IN ORDINARY  
TIME  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2024**

**Meditation before Worship**

*“O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.”*

*-Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tim Spangler

**PRELUDE**

*Instrumental*

Katy Kristoffersen

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Tim Spangler

Leader: It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High,

**People: to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.**

Leader: How great are your works, O Lord, how profound your thoughts!

**People: You, O Lord, are exalted forever!**

**WELCOMING SONG\***

**Now It Is Evening**

(Fred Pratt Green, words; David Haas, music)

Hymn No. 627

All Verses

Congregation

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Tim Spangler

**Eternal God, you have called us to be members of one body. Join us with all those who in all times and places have praised your name, that, with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church, and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 5:43-48**

Glenda Moore

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

*We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.*

**Refrain**

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. **Refrain***

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. **Refrain***

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. **Refrain***

**SCRIPTURE READING****Amos 5:8-15, 18-24; 3:3**

Paster Michael Spangler

The one who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkneses into the morning, and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the Lord is his name, who makes destruction flash out against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress. They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Do two walk together unless they have made an appointment?

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Michael Spangler

**RESPONSIVE SONG**    **Lead Us from Death to Life** (Satish Kumar, refrain; Marty Haugen, verses)    UCSJ Choir

**Refrain**

*Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,*

*From despair to hope, from fear to trust.*

*Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;*

*Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe*

**Verse**

*Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns.*

*Still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.*

*Let justice roll, let mercy pour down.*

*Come and teach us your way of compassion.*

**Verse**

*Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,*

*Let us begin to grow into your people.*

*We can be love, we can bring peace,*

*We can still be your way of compassion. Refrain*

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Tim Spangler

*Thank you for your continued support of the church and our mission.*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Pastor Michael Spangler

**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**

Tim Spangler and Pastor Michael Spangler

**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 Cannot Measure How You Heal**

(John L. Bell, words; Scottish melody)

Hymn No. 628

All Verses

Congregation

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Tim Spangler

**Gracious and merciful God, we praise you for all your goodness. Help us to love you, and to be thankful each day for all your good gifts, by serving you and delighting to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Instrumental Music*

Katy Kristoffersen

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor Michael Spangler

*(Songs and Music under One License #735313. Music is reprinted under copyright license CCLI11233542 )*

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

Reverend Mike Spangler is a retired minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).  
He and Liz live in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

### 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)