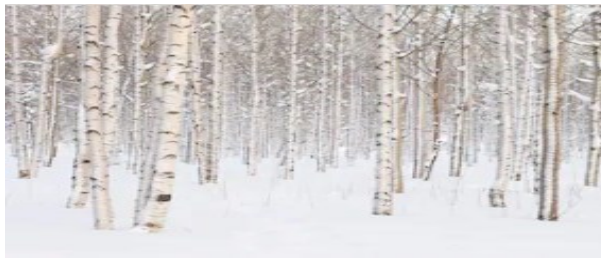


THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**27TH SUNDAY
OF PENTECOST
IN ORDINARY
TIME
NOVEMBER 17, 2024**

Meditation

All over this magnificent world God calls us to extend his kingdom of shalom—peace and wholeness—of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, and of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us. What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing.

Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no oppression that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned to love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.

— *Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams, God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*
(New York: Doubleday, 2004), 128.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joan Moyer

Leader:: It is often difficult for us to recognize the presence of God in our lives and in our world. In the clamor of the tragedy that fills the headlines we forget about the majesty that is present all around us.

People: We feel vulnerable, overwhelmed, and often helpless.

Leader : But we are not helpless and with God's love we are ultimately invincible. Our God does not forget those who are suffering and oppressed.

**People: We give thanks that God's love empowers us to walk with God and one another.
Let us worship God!**

WELCOMING SONG* **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee** (*Henry Van Dyke, words; Ludwig van Beethoven, music*)

Hymn No. 59

Congregation

Verse 1 - All

Verse 2 - Women

Verse 3 - Men

Verse 4 - All

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Joan Moyer

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM:

What Wondrous Love is This

UCSJ Choir

(American Folk Hymn: Music from William Walker's Southern Harmony; Arr. John Leavitt)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

What wondrous love is this, O my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down.

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great 'I AM,'

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

Amen, Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:28-34

Pastor Melinda Veatch

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON	The Greatest	Pastor Melinda Veatch
RESPONSIVE SONG	Ubi Caritas	(Latin, 8th c.; Jacques Berthier, music)
Hymn No. 399		Congregation
	Sing 4 times, starting softly and growing in volume Sing one final time (5th time) softly, a cappella	
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		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*	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love	<i>Tom Colvin, words; Ghana folk song)</i>
Hymn No. 273	All Verses	Congregation
CLOSING PRAYER		Joan Moyer
POSTLUDE	<i>Instrumental Music</i>	Katy Kristoffersen
CHARGE AND BLESSING		Pastor Melinda Veatch

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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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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