

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



1ST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 1, 2024

**Meditation**

God writes spiritual mysteries on our heart, where they wait silently for discovery.

- Rumi

Waiting time is not wasting time. Waiting patiently in expectation is the foundation of the spiritual life.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen

What God does in us while we wait is as important as what we are waiting for.

- John Ortberg

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**PRELUDE**      **Some Children See Him** (*Alfred Burt, music; Wihla Hutson, words*)

Cindi Myers, soloist

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Todd Schroedel

*Each Sunday of Advent we light a candle signifying the light of Christ coming into the world. This Sunday we light the first candle knowing that Christ's light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.*

Leader:: We wait... With each second, with every hour.

**People: We wait... Through each day, through each season.**

Leader : We wait... God's Day is coming.

**People: We wait... God's work will be done.**

Leader: Like a burning candle that stands watch through the night,

**People: We wait. In the waiting, we carry Christ's love with us into the world. Let us worship God.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Todd Schroedel

**HYMN\***                      **The King of Glory Comes**

(*Willard F. Jabusch, words; Israeli folk song*)

**Hymn No. 159**

**Verses 1-4**

Congregation

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**JEREMIAH 33:14-16**

Pam Larson

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

“‘In those days and at that time

I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line;

he will do what is just and right in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved

and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it [a] will be called:

The Lord Our Righteous Savior.’

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**ANTHEM:**            **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** (*Latin, 9th c.; Arr. M. McDonald*)

UCSJ Choir

*O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavn'ly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**A TIME FOR SILENCE**

*We take this moment to rest, to be still in the midst of busy lives and busy minds, and to let God's peace enter.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Mark 4:26-29**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Jesus also said, "Here is what God's kingdom is like. A farmer scatters seed on the ground. Night and day the seed comes up and grows. It happens whether the farmer sleeps or gets up. He doesn't know how it happens. All by itself the soil produces grain. First the stalk comes up. Then the head appears. Finally, the full grain appears in the head. Before long the grain ripens. So the farmer cuts it down, because the harvest is ready."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**HYMN**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

(*Latin, 9th c.; French melody*)

**Hymn No. 154**

**All Verses**

Congregation

**OFFERING OF OURSELVES**

**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.*

**SHARING IN COMMUNION**

Paster Melinda Veatch

**Invitation to the Table**

**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**

**Prayer after Communion**

**LIFTING OUR PRAYERS**

Todd Schroedel 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\***

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**  
*(Charles Wesley, words; Rowland H. Prichard)*

**Hymn No. 153**

**All Verses**

Congregation

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Todd Schroedel

**POSTLUDE**

**Long Ago, Prophets Knew**  
*(Fred Partt Green, words; Piae Cantiones, 1582; Arr. K. Kristoffersen)*

UCSJ Choir

**SENDING**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**A thought to ponder:** Waiting is the hardest work of hope.

– Lewis B. Smedes

## 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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