

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

**TOWARD THE NEW HORIZON - JOIN IN THE SONG**



**3RD SUNDAY**  
**OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 15, 2024**

**MEDITATION**

A bird doesn't sing because it has answers. A bird sings because it has a song.

*Chinese Proverb*

Where the heart is not singing, there is no melody, there is only the dreadful medley of human self-praise."

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

...tune my heart to sing Thy grace – v. 1 of "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**PRELUDE**

**I Wonder as I Wander** (*Appalachian carol*)

Vince Snowbarger, soloist

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Vince Snowbarger

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

Leader:: Sing aloud, O people, sing and shout!

**People: Rejoice with all your heart, O church!**

Leader : Set your feet firmly on the ground, open your mouth,

**People: And sing! Sing to bless the LORD who is in your midst.**

Leader: Here is our song: a triumphant light against the long shadows.

**People: With joy, we sing! Let us worship God!**

**PRAYER**

Vince Snowbarger

**HYMN**

**Prepare the Way, O Zion**

(*Frans Mikael Fanzen, words; Then Svenska Psalmboden*)

**Hymn No. 152**

**All Verses**

**Congregation**

\*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

**READING****Isaiah 12:2-6**

Cindi Myers

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.” With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: “Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION****ANTHEM:****Angels We Have Heard on High** (*French carol, 18th c.*)

UCSJ Choir

*Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains'  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.*

**Refrain**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous songs prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain*

*Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, our newborn King. Refrain*

**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****Luke 1:47-55 Mary's Song**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

RESPONSIVE SONG      Come and Hear the Joyful Singing      (*Michael Perry, words; Hal H. Hopson, music*)

Hymn No. 197

All Verses

Congregation

OFFERING OF OURSELVES

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.*

LIFTING OUR PRAYERS

Vince Snowbarger 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\*

Raise a Song of Gladness

(*Taizé Community, words; Jacques Berthier, music*)

Hymn No. 212

Congregation

ALL: Sing the whole melody 3 times total

Right side of the church starts round: Sing 4x

Left side of the church comes in at Katy's cue: Sing 4x

SENDING PRAYER

Vince Snowbarger

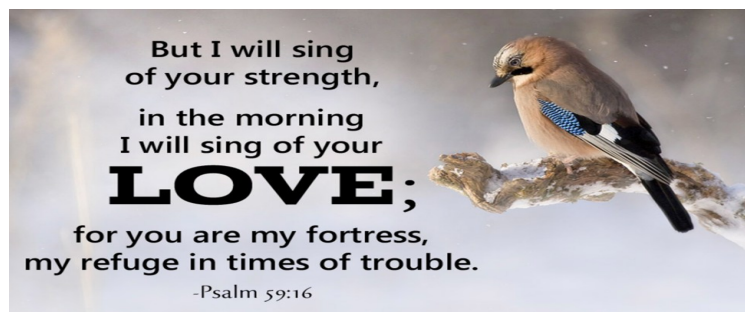
POSTLUDE

Sing We Now of Christmas (*Fred Prentice*)

UCSJ Choir

SENDING

Pastor Melinda Veatch



## 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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