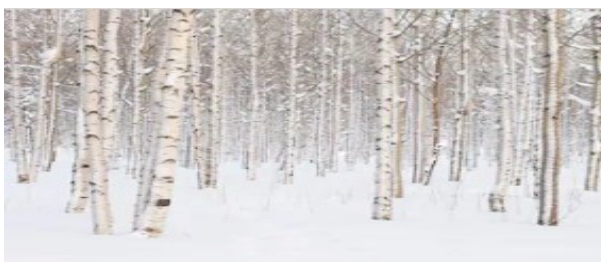


THE  
**United Church**  
OF THE **San Juans**



**2ND SUNDAY  
OF EPIPHANY  
BAPTISM OF  
THE LORD  
JANUARY 12, 2025**

**Meditation**

Millennials aren't looking for a hipper Christianity ... We're looking for a truer Christianity, a more authentic Christianity. Like every generation before ours and every generation after, we're looking for Jesus - the same Jesus who can be found in the strange places he's always been found: in bread, in wine, in baptism, in the Word, in suffering, in community, and among the least of these.

— *Rachel Held Evans*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**PRELUDE**

*Instrumental*

Katy Kristoffersen

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Joan Moyer

Leader:: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth

**People: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

Leader : Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.

**People: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations. Let us worship God!**

**WELCOMING SONG\*** When Jesus Came to Jordan (*Fred Pratt Green, words; "Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch," 1693*)

Hymn No. 241

All Verses

Congregation

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Joan Moyer

**Holy God, we come into your presence with deep gratitude. You are the one who saves us. We give you thanks that our lives are in your loving hands. In the depths of the earth, in the heights of the mountains, in the vast oceans, across the dry lands, we see the work of your hands from the very beginning to now. You have created for us lives of beauty and grace and you provide for our every need. In you we live and move and have our being, so accept our prayer of praise and our worship as a full expression of our love. Amen.**

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,  
 did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
 rather, he made himself nothing  
 by taking the very nature of a servant,  
 being made in human likeness.  
 And being found in appearance as a man,  
 he humbled himself  
 by becoming obedient to death—  
 even death on a cross!  
 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
 and gave him the name that is above every name,  
 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 to the glory of God the Father.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM:**

**Gloria, Gloria**

UCSJ Choir

*(Trad.; Jacques Bertheir, music) Glory to God, Glory in the Highest (Trad., Peruvian melody)*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Glory to God, glory to God,*

*Glory in the highest!*

*Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!*

*To God be glory forever!*

*Alleluia! Amen!*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 3:13-17**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**It's Who We Are**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

RESPONSIVE SONG

**Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

*(Rusty Edwards, words; John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813)*

Hymn No. 93

All Verses

Congregation

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

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.*

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\*

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*(Walter Chalmers Smith, words; Welsh melody)*

Hymn No. 48

All Verses

Congregation

CLOSING PRAYER

Joan Moyer

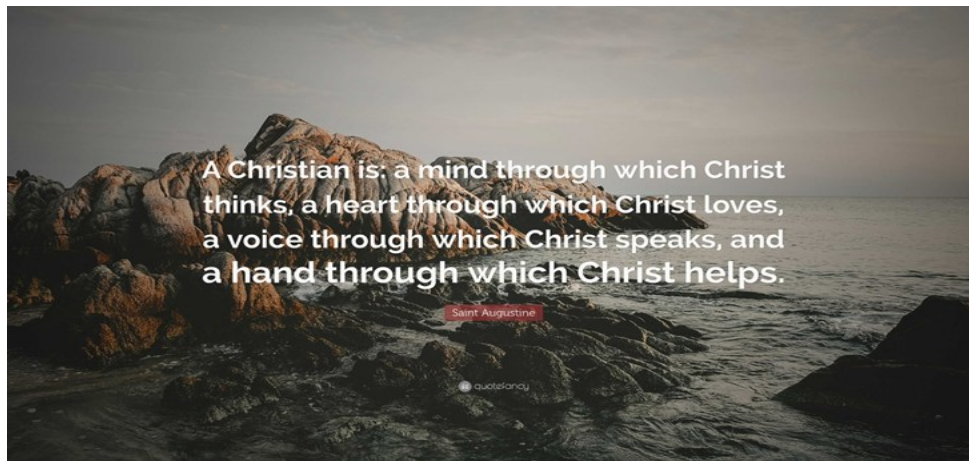
POSTLUDE

*Instrumental Music*

Katy Kristoffersen

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor Melinda Veatch



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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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