

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



EPIPHANY
SUNDAY
JANUARY 5, 2025

Meditation

There is no figure more common in scripture, and none more beautiful, than that by which Christ is likened unto light. Incomprehensible in its nature, itself the first visible, and that by which all things are seen, light represents to us Christ. Whose generation none can declare, but who must shine upon us ere we can know aught aright, whether of things Divine or human.

– Herman Melville

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental Music

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tim Spangler

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord shall arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Leader: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

People: We give thanks for the light and life we have in Jesus Christ! Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Tim Spangler

Holy God, you have gifted the church through the goodness of your grace to be your hands and do your work, to be your voice and share your words, to bring healing to a fallen world and make broken lives whole. You have gifted your people with the blessings of your Spirit, the power to transform lives and make all things new. Now may our hearts receive, our mouths proclaim, and our hands prepare for service, that the love we have known might overflow the lives we live and pour into the hearts of others, that all might receive your Grace, your renewing Spirit, and your love. Amen.

WELCOMING HYMN*

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

(Ruth Duck, words; William H. Walter, music)

Hymn No. 231

All Verses

Congregation

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

Give the king your justice, O God,
 and your righteousness to a king's son.
 May he judge your people with righteousness,
 and your poor with justice.
 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
 and the hills, in righteousness.
 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
 give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
 May he live while the sun endures,
 and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
 like showers that water the earth.
 In his days may righteousness flourish
 and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
 For he delivers the needy when they call,
 the poor and those who have no helper.
 He has pity on the weak and the needy,
 and saves the lives of the needy.
 From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
 and precious is their blood in his sight.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM:

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

UCSJ Choir

(Latin carol, 14th c.; German melody; arr. Trevor Manor)

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
 Give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today;
 Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
 Now ye hear of endless bliss; Joy, joy! Jesus Christ was born for this;
 He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever more.
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace, peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Living Light

Pastor Melinda Veatch

HYMN

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

(Louis F. Benson, words; English melody)

Hymn No. 242

All Verses

Congregation

OFFERING

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*

GATHERING AT THE LORD’S TABLE

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

Tim Spangler and Pastor Melinda Veatch

CLOSING SONG*

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

(Kathleen Thomerson)

Hymn No. 248

All Verses

Congregation

CLOSING PRAYER

Tim Spangler

POSTLUDE

Instrumental Music

Katy Kristoffersen

SENDING

Pastor Melinda Veatch

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

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

Church Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to 1pm.

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

OFFICE

Shirley Didier, Admin. Assistant
ucsjoffice@gmail.com