

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



4TH
SUNDAY
AFTER
EPIHANY
FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Meditation

Reconciliation is the act of getting two things to be compatible with one another. You might have a reconciliation with a former enemy, or your mom might call for a reconciliation between your spending habits and your diminishing bank account.

– *Vocabulary.com*

It is not “forgive and forget” as if nothing wrong had ever happened, but “forgive and go forward,” building on the mistakes of the past and the energy generated by reconciliation to create a new future.

– *Alan Paton*

But forgiveness doesn’t automatically lead to reconciliation. For serious offenses, true reconciliation requires that forgiveness be offered and that it be received by the offender. To receive forgiveness involves acknowledging wrongdoing and working to repair what was broken.

Failing to adequately address the behavior is like trying to heal a gunshot wound with gauze.

– *BibleProject.com*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental Music

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 133 (*adapted*)

Tim Spangler

Leader: How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!

People: It is like an aromatic perfume that pleases all the senses, like a fullness of joy that fill the heart.

Leader: It is like a river of blessings that fosters flourishing.

People: Let us worship God, who brings us into vibrant life together!

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*

Lord I Want to Be a Christian (*African-American Spiritual*)

Hymn No. 457

All Verses

Congregation

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: **He Leadeth Me** (*Joseph H. Gilmore, text; Benjamin Wegner, music*) UCSJ Choir

*He leadeth me, O blessed thought, O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where're I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.*

*Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.*

Refrain

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me.
His faithful foll'wer I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.*

*Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me. **Refrain***

*And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me. **Refrain***

“If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him - work it out between the two of you. If he listens, You’ve made a friend. If he won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won’t listen, tell the church. If he won’t listen to the church, you’ll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God’s forgiving love.”

“Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I’ll be there.”

At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, “Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?”

Jesus replied, “Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Reaching to Reconcile

Pastor Melinda Veatch

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*

Blessed Assurance (*Fammy J. Crosby, words; Phoebe P Knapp, Music*)

Hymn No. 426

All Verses

Congregation

CLOSING PRAYER

Tim Spangler

POSTLUDE

Instrumental Music

Katy Kristoffersen

SENDING

Pastor Melinda Veatch

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***Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable**

OUR MISSION

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- 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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