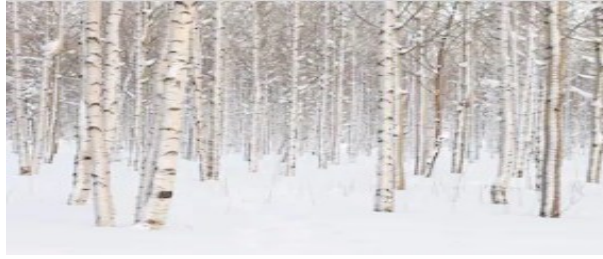


THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



7TH SUNDAY
AFTER
EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Meditation

There must be something strangely sacred in salt. It is in our tears and in the sea.

- *Kahlil Gibran*

There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

- *Edith Wharton*

The lamps are different, but the Light is the same. One matter, one energy, one Light, one Light-mind, endlessly emanating all things.

- *Mawlana Jallaluddin Rumi*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

To a Wild Rose (*Edward MacDowell*)

Alex Birck

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tim Spangler

Leader:: Let the mystery of God draw us in:

People: Beautiful, Just, Merciful!

Leader: Let the Wisdom of God surprise us:

People: Vulnerable, Powerful, Searching!

Leader: Let the glory of God shine through our work:

People: Salty, Bright and Good!

Leader: In the Mystery, the Wisdom, the Glory of God let us worship God!

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Tim Spangler

Wonderful God, we gather today to celebrate your presence in the lives of faithful people. Send your Spirit to meet us here and guide us into your depths, that we may begin to glimpse your grace: What our eye has not seen, nor our ear heard, nor the human heart conceived – all you have prepared for those who love you. We pray this in the name of Jesus, your Mystery, your Wisdom, your Glory. Amen.

WELCOMING SONG*

Step by Step (*Beaker*)

Congregation

Hymn No. 494

1st Time: softly

2nd time: medium volume

3rd time: loudly!

SCRIPTURE READING**ROMANS 12:1-8**

Shirley Didier

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: **This Little Light of Mine** (*African American Spiritual; arr. Mark Patterson*)

UCSJ Choir

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

Shine, shine shine; take this little light.

Ev’ry where I go, I’m gonna let it shine.

I’m gonna let it shine ‘til Jesus comes.

Take this little light and let it shine, shine, shine!

SCRIPTURE READING**Matthew 5:13-16**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**A Bright and Salty Life**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

RESPONSIVE SONG**Come, Celebrate the Call of God***(Brian Wren, words; Early American melody)***HYMN NO. 584****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

Tim Spangler 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* We Are Called to Be God's People (*Thomas A. Jackson, words; Franz Joseph Haydn, music*)

Hymn No. 580

All Verses

Congregation

CLOSING PRAYER

Tim Spangler

You have called us, O God, to embrace the mission of Jesus as our own. Our sight is not equal to this vision, and our strength is not equal to this task. But you, O Lord, are a merciful God. You give light to those who walk in darkness, and you grant strength to those who carry heavy loads. As we return to the workaday world, let us see your light before us and feel your strength within us. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Nuovole Bianche - "White Clouds" (*Ludovico Einaudi*)

Alex Birck

CHARGE AND BLESSING

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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