

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



**8TH SUNDAY  
AFTER  
EPIHANY  
MARCH 2, 2025**

**Meditation**

When I get on stage, my first goal is not to show my expertise, but on the contrary, to give a bit of happiness, of joy, of cheerfulness. I am firmly convinced that in order to sing well, you must love your neighbor and be passionate about life.

– *Andrea Bocelli*

If we truly love God, we will express it by loving our neighbors, and when we truly love our neighbors, it expresses our love for God

– *Richard Stearns*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**PRELUDE**

*Instrumental Music*

Katy Kristoffersen

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**1 John 4:11-12**

Joan Moyer

Leader: Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. Not one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**People: God is love. Let us worship God!**

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Joan Moyer

**WELCOMING HYMN\***

**Pass It On**

*(Kurt Kaiser)*

**Hymn No. 557**

**All Verses**

Congregation

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Leviticus 19:9-18**

Mick Graff

“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.

“Do not steal.

“Do not lie.

“Do not deceive one another.

“Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.

“Do not defraud or rob your neighbor.

“Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight.

“Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the Lord.

“Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

“Do not go about spreading slander among your people.

“Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor’s life. I am the LORD.

“Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt.

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord..

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

*I had a dream I  
 Stood beneath an orange sky.  
 Yes I had a dream I  
 Stood beneath an orange sky,  
 With my brother standing by.  
 With my brother standing by.  
 I said brother, you know  
 It's a long road we've been walking on  
 Yes it is, yes it is, you know, brother it is  
 Such a long road we've been walking on*

*And I had a dream  
 I stood beneath an orange sky,  
 With my sister standing by.  
 With my sister standing by.  
 I said, here is what I know now sister  
 Here is what I know now: **Refrain***

*Sister, you know I am so weary.  
 And you know my heart's been broken.  
 Sometimes, sometimes my mind is  
 Too strong to carry on.*

*When I am alone,  
 When I've thrown off the weight of this crazy stone,  
 When I've lost all care for the things I own,  
 That's when I miss you, that's when I miss you  
 You who are my home.  
 You who are my home now.  
 And here is what I know now brother,  
 Here is what I know now sister: **Refrain***

#### Refrain

*In your love, my salvation lies  
 In your love, my salvation lies  
 In your love, my salvation lies  
 In your love, in your love.*

#### SCRIPTURE READING

#### Mark 12:28-34

Pastor Melinda Veatch

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Living Love

Pastor Melinda Veatch

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

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joan Moyer and Pastor Melinda Veatch

CLOSING SONG\*

**God's Love Made Visible!**

*Iola and Dave Brubeck)*

Hymn No. 226

**Both Verses**

Congregation

CLOSING PRAYER

Joan Moyer

POSTLUDE

*Instrumental Music*

Katy Kristofferssen

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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