

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**FIRST SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

Meditation

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the
soul – and sings the tune without the words – and never
stops at all.

– *Emily Dickinson*

The real hope is not in something we think we can do, but in God, who is making something
good in some way we cannot see.

– *Thomas Merton*

Where there is discord, may we bring harmony. Where there is error, may we bring truth.
Where there is doubt, may we bring faith. Where there is despair, may we bring hope.

– *St. Francis of Assisi*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UCSJ Bell Choir

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Joan Moyer

*Each Sunday of Advent we light a candle signifying the light of Christ coming into the world.
This Sunday we light the first candle,
knowing that Christ's light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.*

Leader: Prepare the way:

People: To the north, south, east and west.

Leader: Make room for God's work:

People: In our hearts, in our world, in our church, in our relationships.

Leader: Be prepared: like a refiner's fire, God will work to make us more beautiful
than gold, more precious than silver

People: Prepare the way. Let us worship the God in whom we hope.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

OPENING PRAYER

Joan Moyer

WELCOMING SONG*

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Congregation

(Frans Mikael Franzen, words; *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697)

Hymn No. 152

All Verses

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

In the last days
the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.
Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

A TIME FOR SILENCE

We take this moment to rest, to be still in the midst of busy lives and busy minds, and to let God's peace enter.

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UCSJ Choir

(trad.; arr. Marshall McDonald)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny.
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O Come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

I rejoiced with those who said to me,
 “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
 Our feet are standing
 in your gates, Jerusalem.
 Jerusalem is built like a city
 that is closely compacted together.
 That is where the tribes go up—
 the tribes of the Lord—
 to praise the name of the Lord
 according to the statute given to Israel.
 There stand the thrones for judgment,
 the thrones of the house of David.
 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 “May those who love you be secure.
 May there be peace within your walls
 and security within your citadels.”
 For the sake of my family and friends,
 I will say, “Peace be within you.”
 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
 I will seek your prosperity.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

A TIME FOR SILENCE

We take this moment to rest, to be still in the midst of busy lives and busy minds, and to let God's peace enter.

RESPONSIVE SONG

Creator of the Stars of Night
(Latin hymn, 9th Century)

Congregation

See Insert

All Verses

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.

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

CLOSING SONG*

Light Dawns on a Weary World
(Mary Louise Bringle, words; William P. Rowan, music)

Congregation

See Insert

All Verses

CLOSING PRAYER

Joan Moyer

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
(Charles Wesley, text; Rowland H. Prichard, music)
Alice Goertz, Lisa Young, Vince Snowbarger, and Todd Schroedel

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor Melinda Veatch

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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
CHURCH IN AMERICA

LUTHERAN



Rev. Melinda A. Veatch ucsjpastor@gmail.com

Church Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday - 9 am to 1 pm.

MUSIC

Katy Kristoffersen, Director

OFFICE

Shirley Didier, Admin. Assistant