

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



SECOND SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025

*EMBARKING ON THE JOURNEY: WALKING WITH
PEACE*

Meditation

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing there is a field. I'll meet you there. When the soul lies down in that grass the world is too full to talk about.

— Rumi

Thou has made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee.

St. Augustine of Hippo, from Confessions

The Simple Path: Silence is prayer. Prayer is Faith. Faith is Love. Love is Service. The Fruit of Service is Peace.

— Mother Teresa

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

UCSJ Choir

(Elizabeth Poston)

Cindi Myers - Soloist

*The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Bob McDaniel

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

Leader: We wait... With each second, with every hour.

People: We wait... Through each day, through each season.

Leader: We wait... God's Day is coming.

People: We wait... God's work will be done.

Leader: Like a burning candle that stands watch through the night,

People: We wait. In the waiting, we carry Christ's peace with us into the world.

Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

Bob McDaniel

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

Hymn No. 174

All Verses

SCRIPTURE Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Mick Graff

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the spirit of counsel and might,
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
 or decide by what his ears hear;
 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
 The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
 They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain;
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord.
 as the waters cover the sea.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

A TIME FOR SILENCE.

ANTHEM:

The Wexford Carol

UCSJ Choir

(Trad. Irish; Arr. K. Kristoffersen)

*Good people all, this Christmas time
 Consider well and bear in mind
 What our good God for us has done
 In sending his beloved son.*

*With Mary holy we should pray
 To God with love this Christmas Day.
 In Bethlehem upon that morn,
 There was a blessed Messiah born.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
 Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
 To whom God's angels did appear
 Which put the shepherds in great fear.*

*'Prepare and go, ' the angels said,
 'To Bethlehem, be not afraid.
 For there you'll find, this happy morn
 A princely babe, sweet Jesus born.*

*With thankful heart and joyful mind,
 The shepherds went, this babe to find,
 And as God's angel had foretold
 They did our saviour Christ behold.*

*Within a manger he was laid,
 And by his side the virgin maid;
 Attending on the Lord of life,
 Who came on earth to end all strife.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12

Pastor Melinda Veatch

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor Melinda Veatch

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

A TIME FOR SILENCE

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.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the to the Lord our God.

People: And also with you.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

Bob McDaniel and Pastor Melinda Veatch

CLOSING SONG

Long Ago, Prophets Knew
(Fred Pratt Green, words; Piae Cantiones, 1582)

Congregation

Hymn No. 167

Verse 1: All Verse 2: Men
Verse 3: Women Verse 4: All

CLOSING PRAYER

Bob McDaniel

POSTLUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten
(Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th c, text; Plainsong, 13thc.)

Mike Kristoffersen, string bass; Katy Kristoffersen, piano and vocals

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 LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



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