

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

Embarking on the Journey: On the Road

Meditation

Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. They give most who give with joy.

— *Mother Teresa*

Do not think only of your own joy, but vow to save all beings from suffering. This is sharing highest form and purity beyond all poisons of this world.

in its

— *Dalai Lama*

The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.

— *Julian of Norwich*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Mary, Did You Know?

Katy Kristoffersen, piano

(Mark Lowry, words; Buddy Greene, music)
Words can be found in hymn #192

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Cindi Myers

*Each Sunday of Advent we light a candle signifying the light of Christ coming into the world.
This Sunday we light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, and the third candle of joy,
knowing that Christ's light shines in the darkness 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 Joy with us into the world. Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

Cindi Myers

WELCOMING SONG*

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Congregation

(Marty Haugen)

Hymn No. 160

Verses 1 and 4

And Mary said:
 “My soul glorifies the Lord
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 for he has been mindful
 of the humble state of his servant.
 From now on all generations will call me blessed,
 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
 holy is his name.
 His mercy extends to those who fear him,
 from generation to generation.
 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
 he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
 He has brought down rulers from their thrones
 but has lifted up the humble.
 He has filled the hungry with good things
 but has sent the rich away empty.
 He has helped his servant Israel,
 remembering to be merciful
 to Abraham and his descendants forever,

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

UCSJ Choir

(trad.; Arr. K. Kristoffersen)

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:2-11

Pastor Melinda Veatch

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

“‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way before you.’”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Leader: This is the Gospel 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

I Wonder as I Wander
(Appalachian Carol)

Congregation

Hymn No. 225

Verses 1 and 4

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your continued support of the church and our mission

Some Children See Him
(Afred Burt)

Alan Todd, cello

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.*

SHARING IN BAPTISM

Introduction

Presentation

Thanksgiving over the Water

Renunciations and Profession of Faith

Profession of Faith

The Baptism

Prayer

Presentation of the Newly Baptized

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Cindi Myers 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*

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary
(Gracia Grindal, words; Rusty Edwards, music)

Congregation

Hymn No. 171

Verses 1, 2, 4, and 6

CLOSING PRAYER

Cindi Myers

POSTLUDE

Who Comes This Night?
(Dave Grusin, music; Sally Stevens, words; Arr. Sheldon Curry)
(See page 4)

UCSJ Choir

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor Melinda Veatch

*Who comes this night, this wintry night, as to the lowly manger?
The shepherds and the kings did come to welcome in the Stranger.
Who sends this song upon the air to ease the soul that's aching;
To still the cry of deep despair and heal the heart that's breaking?
Brother Joseph, bring the light fast, the night is fading.
And who will come this wintry night to where the Stranger's waiting?
Who comes this night, with humble heart, to give the fullest measure?
A gift of purest love to bring, what good and worthy treasure.
Brother Joseph, bring the lamb for they are asking for Him,
The children come this starry night to lay their hearts before Him.
For those who would the Stranger greet must lay their heart before Him,
And raise their song in voices sweet to worship and adore Him.
Brother Joseph, bring the light fast, the night is fading.
And who will come this wintry night to where the Stranger's waiting?
Brother Joseph, bring the Lamb for they are asking for Him.
The children come this starry night to lay their hearts before Him.
Pure of heart this starry night to lay their hearts before Him.
O wondrous night.*

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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
GELICAL LU-



METHODIST
THERAN



THE
United Church
OF THE
San Juans

CHURCH ~ THE
CHURCH IN



EVAN-
AMERICA



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