

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



**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**DECEMBER 24, 2025**

**4:30 P.M.**

**A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
OF LESSONS, CANDLES AND CAROLS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**Stepping into Wonder: Preludes**

**Skating** (*Vince Guaraldi*) - Alex Birck, piano; Ryder Hines, bass; Elliot Kristoffersen, drums

**Here Comes Santa Claus** (*Ramsey Lewis*) - Katy Kristoffersen, piano; Mike Kristoffersen, string bass;  
Elliot Kristoffersen, percussion

**Drummer Boy** (*Traditional*)

**Christmas Time is Here** (*Vince Guaraldi*)

**Lyrics can be found in the insert.**

**THE WELCOME AND OPENING SCRIPTURE**

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's  
Throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

**\*CAROL NO. 184**

**What Child is This**

Congregation

(*William C. Dix, words; English melody, 16th c.*)

**All Verses**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Still, Still, Still**

UCSJ Choir

(*Arr. Lloyd Larson*)

**PRAYER**

Tim Spangler

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Carol of the Bells**

UCSJ Choir

(*Peter J. Wilbousky, words; Mykola Leontovych, music*)

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 2:1-7**

Anna Strong

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**CAROL No. 185****Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**  
*(Charles Wesley, words; Felix Mendelssohn, music)*

Congregation

**All Verses****A READING FROM SCRIPTURE****Luke 2:8-15**

Terry Thomas

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

**CAROL No. 188****Angels We Have Heard on High**  
*(French carol, 18th c.)*

Congregation

**All Verses****A READING FROM SCRIPTURE****Luke 2:15-20**

Elise Shirey

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**CAROL No. 191****It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**  
*(Edmund H. Sears, words; Richard S. Willis, music)*

Congregation

**All Verses****A READING FROM SCRIPTURE****Matthew 2:1-12**

Harry Strong

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east Came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**In the Bleak Midwinter**

UCSJ Choir

*(Gustav Holst, music; Christina G. Rossetti, words; Arr. A. C. Whitworth)*

**Lyrics can be found in the insert**

**A TIME FOR REFLECTION**

**\*CAROL NO. 182**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Congregation

*(Attr. John F. Wade)*

**All Verses**

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!*

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine! O night, O night divine!*

*Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing heart by his cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the wise men from Orient land.*

*The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend;*

*He knows our need, he guards us from all danger.  
Behold your King; before him lowly bend!  
Behold your king; before him lowly bend!*

*Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.*

*Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise his holy name.*

*Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

**CALL FOR OFFERING AND SPECIAL MUSIC**

**O Holy Night**

UCSJ Choir

*(Adolphe Adam; Arr. Dale Grotenhuis)*

**SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**CAROL NO. 186**

**Silent Night ! Holy Night!**

Congregation

*(Joseph Mohr, words; Franz Gruber, music)*

**All Verses**

**BLESSING**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**\*CAROL NO. 179**

**Joy to the World**

Congregation

*(Isaac Watts words; George Frideric Handel, music)*

**Verses 1, 2, and 4**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sing We Now of Christmas**

UCSJ Choir

*(French Carol; arr. Fred Prentice)*

**Lyrics can be found in the insert**

**OUTRO MUSIC**

**Christmas is Coming**

*(Vince Guaraldi)*

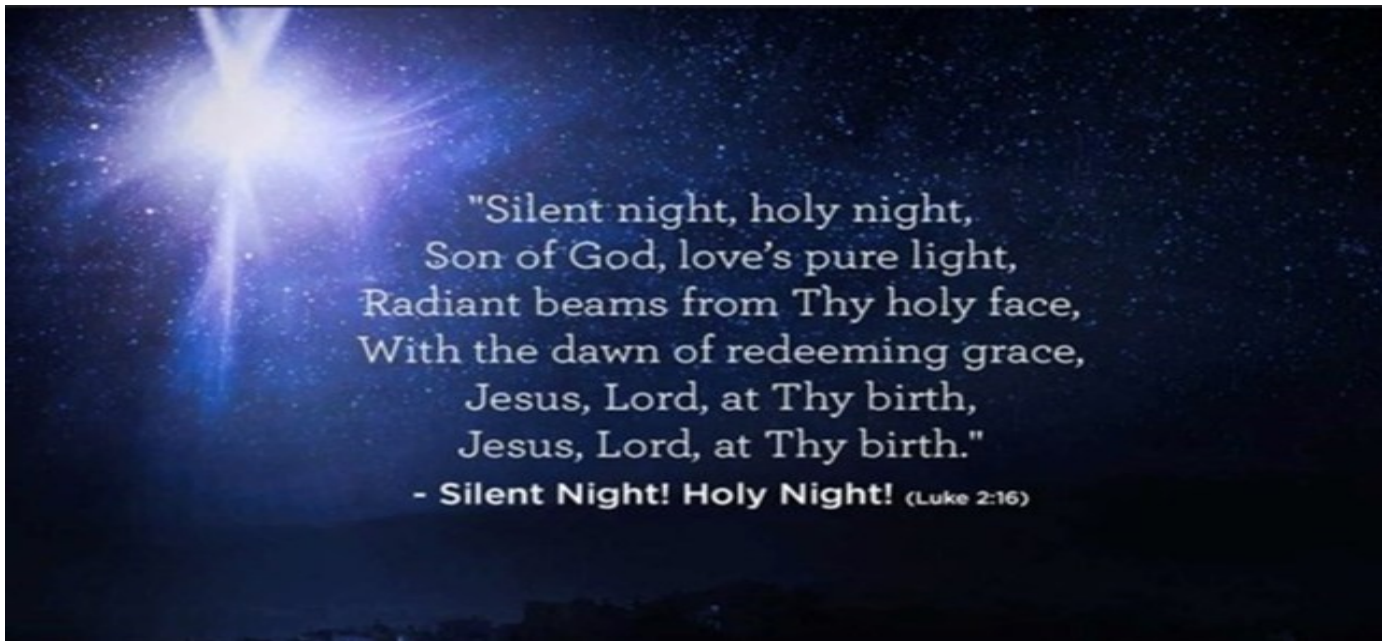
Katy Kristoffersen, piano; Mike Kristoffersen, string bass; Elliot Kristoffersen, percussion

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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



**Rev. Melinda A. Veatch**

**[ucsjpastor@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjpastor@gmail.com)**

Church Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday -- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.;

[www.ucsjridgway.org](http://www.ucsjridgway.org) . 970-626-5803 . P.O. Box 295 . 295 N. Lena Street . Ridgway CO 81432 . Facebook/UCSJRidgway

### MUSIC

Katy Kristoffersen, Director  
[ucsjmusic@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjmusic@gmail.com)

### OFFICE

Shirley Didier, Admin. Assistant  
[ucsjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjoffice@gmail.com)