

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



EPIPHANY

SUNDAY

JANUARY 4, 2026

Meditation

Like the Magi, may we also journey and be attentive, untiring and courageous on the path to find the invisible God who was born among us.

— *Pope Francis*

Today, the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body.

As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.

— *St. Peter Chrysologus*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

We Three Kings
(John. H. Hopkins)

Kim Lundgren and Alice Goertz, flute

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 60:1-3, 6

Joan Moyer

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord shall arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Leader: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

People: We give thanks for the light and life we have in Jesus Christ! Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

Joan Moyer

Holy God, you have gifted the church through the goodness of your grace to be your hands and do your work, to be your voice and share your words, to bring healing to a fallen world and make broken lives whole. You have gifted your people with the blessings of your Spirit, the power to be transformed and work with you to make all things new. Now open our hearts to receive, our mouths to proclaim, and our hands to prepare for service. May the love we have known overflow our lives and pour into the hearts of others, that all might receive your grace, your renewing Spirit, and your love. Amen.

WELCOMING SONG*

Arise, Your Light Is Come!
(Ruth Duck, words; William H. Walter, music)

Congregation

Hymn No. 231

All Verses

Give the king your justice, O God,
 and your righteousness to a king's son.
 May he judge your people with righteousness,
 and your poor with justice.
 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
 and the hills, in righteousness.
 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
 give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
 May he live while the sun endures,
 and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
 like showers that water the earth.
 In his days may righteousness flourish
 and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
 For he delivers the needy when they call,
 the poor and those who have no helper.
 He has pity on the weak and the needy,
 and saves the lives of the needy.
 From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
 and precious is their blood in his sight.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM:

From A Distant Home

UCSJ Choir

(Puerto Rican carol; arr. K. Kristoffersen)

*From a distant home the Savior we come seeking,
 Using as our guide the star so brightly beaming.*

Refrain

*Lovely eastern star that tells us of God's morning,
 Heaven's wondrous light, O never cease your shining!
 Glory in the highest to the Son of Heaven,
 And upon the earth be peace and love to all.*

*Glowing gold I bring the newborn babe so holy,
 Token of his power to reign above in glory.
 Frankincense I bring the child of God's own choosing,
 Token of our prayers to heaven ever rising. **Refrain***

*Bitter myrrh have I to give the infant Jesus,
 Token of the pain that he will bear to save us.
 From a distant home the Savior we come seeking
 Using as our guide the star so brightly beaming. **Refrain***

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, so 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.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Living Light

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*

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Congregation

(Kathleen Thomerson)

Hymn No. 248

All Verses

CLOSING PRAYER

Joan Moyer

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

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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