

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY
BAPTISM OF THE LORD
JANUARY 11, 2026**

Meditation

To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else
is the greatest accomplishment.

— *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Every day I see Jesus Christ in all his distressing disguises.

— *Mother Teresa*

Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self.
Every other identity is illusion.

— *Brennan Manning*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental
(*Fred Pratt Green, words; Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, 1693*)

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Adapted from *Isaiah 42:6-9*)

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Leader: I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and
kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

**People: to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.**

Leader: I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, not my praise to idols.

**People: See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before
they spring forth, I tell you of them.**

Leader: We look ahead to the new as we walk with God in the present. Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Melinda Veatch

WELCOMING SONG*

When Jesus Came to Jordan
(*Fred Pratt Green, words; Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, 1693*)

Congregation

Hymn No. 241

All Verses

SCRIPTURE READING**Psalm 29**

Mick Graff

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings,
 ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
 worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
 the God of glory thunders,
 the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is powerful;
 the voice of the Lord is majestic.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
 the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon leap like a calf,
 Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of the Lord strikes
 with flashes of lightning.
The voice of the Lord shakes the desert;
 the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord twists the oaks
 and strips the forests bare.
And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
 the Lord is enthroned as King forever.
The Lord gives strength to his people;
 the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM**City of God**

UCSJ Choir

(Daniel L. Schutte; Choral Setting by Jane Holstein)

*Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.*

Refrain

*Let us build the city of God.
May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love,
Has turned the night into day!*
*We're sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The one who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
A light for his people to set their hearts free. **Refrain***

*God is light; in him there is no darkness.
Let us walk in his light, his children one and all.
Oh comfort my people; make gentle your words.
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth.
O city of gladness, now lift up your voice!
Proclaim the good tidings that all may rejoice! **Refrain***

SCRIPTURE READING**Matthew 3:13-17**

Reverend Lou Ward

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**Baptism of Jesus**

Reverend Lou Ward

RESPONSIVE SONG**Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

Congregation

(Rusty Edwards, words; John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813)**Hymn No. 93****All Verses****RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

*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

Mick Graff 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 sin, 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***God's Love Made Visible**

Congregation

(Iola and Dave Brubeck)

Hymn No. 226**Both Verses****CLOSING PRAYER**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

POSTLUDE**Instrumental**

Katy Kristoffersen

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Reverend Lou Ward

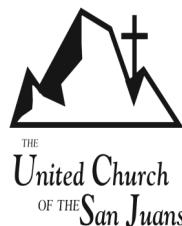
OUR MISSION

- 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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