

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



FOURTH SUNDAY

AFTER

PIPHANY

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

**Meditation**

We need leaders not in love with money but in love with justice. Not in love with publicity but in love with humanity.

— *Martin Luther King*

Love God, love people. Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly. Treat people as you want to be treated. If you want to be great, be a servant.

— *Jen Hatmaker*

An educated person must learn to act justly, beginning, first of all, with his thoughts, then later in his deeds. That is what it means to be educated.

— *Pramoedya Ananta Toer*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Melinda Veach

**PRELUDE**

*Instrumental*

Katy Kristoffersen

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalm 15** (*from The Message*)

Angela Todd

Leader: The psalmist asks, “God, who gets invited to dinner at your place? How do we get on the guest list?”

**People: God answers, “Walk straight, act right, tell the truth. Don’t hurt your friend, don’t blame your neighbor;”**

Leader: God adds, “Keep your word even when it costs you, make an honest living, never take a bribe. You’ll never be blacklisted if you live like this.”

**People: We give thanks that we follow a God of righteousness. We give thanks for all God’s blessings. Let us worship God.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Angela Todd

*(from the prayers of the Revised Common Lectionary website at Vanderbilt Divinity Library)*

God our deliverer, you walk with the meek and the poor, the compassionate and those who mourn, and you call us to walk humbly with you. When we are foolish, be our wisdom; when we are weak, be our strength; that, as we learn to do justice and to love mercy, your rule may come as blessing. Amen.

**WELCOMING SONG\***

**We Are Called**  
(*David Haas*)

Congregation

Hymn No. See Insert

All Verses

**SCRIPTURE READING****Matthew 5:1-12 (from The Message)**

Cindi Myers

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

“You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

“You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

“You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

“You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

“You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

“You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

“Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM:****In Every Age**  
(Janét Sullivan Whitaker)

UCSJ Choir

*Long before the mountains came to be  
And the land and sea and stars of the night,  
Through the endless seasons of all time,  
You have always been, you will always be.*

**Refrain**

*In every age, O God, you have been our refuge.  
In every age, O God, you have been our hope.*

*Destiny is cast, and at your silent word  
We return to dust and scatter to the wind.  
A thousand years are like a single moment gone,  
As the light that fades at the end of day. **Refrain***

*Teach us to make use of the time we have.  
Teach us to be patient even as we wait.  
Teach us to embrace our every joy and pain.  
To sleep peacefully, and to rise up strong. **Refrain***

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Listen to what the Lord says:  
“Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;  
let the hills hear what you have to say.

“Hear, you mountains, the Lord’s accusation;  
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.  
For the Lord has a case against his people;  
he is lodging a charge against Israel.

“My people, what have I done to you?  
How have I burdened you? Answer me.  
I brought you up out of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.  
I sent Moses to lead you,  
also Aaron and Miriam.  
My people, remember  
what Balak king of Moab plotted  
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.

**Micah 6:1-8**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.”

With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow down before the exalted God?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?  
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON****It's Just a Kind of Humble Walk**

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**

Pastor 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 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**

Angela Todd and Pastor Melinda Veatch

**CLOSING SONG\*****A Place at the Table**

Congregation

*(Shirley Erena Murray, words; Jane Marshall, music)***HYMN NO. 617****Verses 1, 3, and 5****CLOSING PRAYER**

Angela Todd

**POSTLUDE***Instrumental*

Katy Kristoffersen

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

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- 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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