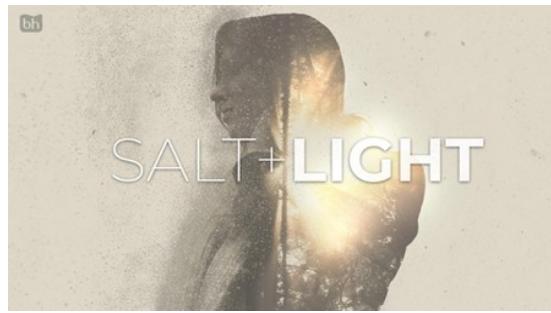


THE  
**United Church  
OF THE San Juans**



FIFTH SUNDAY

AFTER

EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

**Meditation**

Light and shadow are opposite sides of the same coin. We can illuminate our paths or darken our way. It is a matter of choice.

— Maya Angelou

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.

— Desmond Tutu

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.

— 1 John 1:7

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**PRELUDE**

*Instrumental*

Katy Kristoffersen

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(From Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church)

Joan Moyer

Leader: We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

**People: We are the salt of the earth.**

Leader: We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

**People: We are the light of the world.**

Leader: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

**People: The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.**

Leader: As we gather, loving God and one another, let us worship God.

**OPENING PRAYER**

(From Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church)

Joan Moyer

God of mystery and of judgment, who has made us to be salt and light in a tasteless, shadowed world, guide us in this time of worship. Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment so that others may see your good works through us, give you the glory, and be moved to serve you. Amen.

**WELCOMING SONG\***

**Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

Congregation

(Christopher Wordsworth, words; George J. Elvey, music)

Hymn No. 243

Verses 1, 2, and 4

## SCRIPTURE READING

“Shout it aloud, do not hold back.  
Raise your voice like a trumpet.  
Declare to my people their rebellion  
and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.  
For day after day they seek me out;  
they seem eager to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that does what is right  
and has not forsaken the commands of its God.  
They ask me for just decisions  
and seem eager for God to come near them.  
‘Why have we fasted,’ they say,  
‘and you have not seen it?  
Why have we humbled ourselves,  
and you have not noticed?’

“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do  
as you please  
and exploit all your workers.  
Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,  
and in striking each other with wicked fists.  
You cannot fast as you do today  
and expect your voice to be heard on high.  
Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,  
only a day for people to humble themselves?  
Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed  
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?  
Is that what you call a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

## Isaiah 58:1-9

Mick Graff

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:  
to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke,  
to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—  
when you see the naked, to clothe them,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and  
blood?  
Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness will go before you,  
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.  
Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

### Rain Down

UCSJ Choir

(Jaime Cortez; arr. John Carter)

#### Refrain

*Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.  
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.*

*Faithful and true is the word of our God.  
All of God’s works are so worthy of trust.  
God’s mercy falls on the just and the right;  
Full of God’s love is the earth. Refrain*

*We who revere and find hope in our God  
Live in the kindness and joy of God’s wing.  
God will protect us from darkness and death;  
God will not leave us to starve. Refrain*

*God of creation, we long for your truth;  
You are the water of life that we thirst.  
Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,  
All of our hope lies in you. Refrain*

**SCRIPTURE READING****Matthew 5:13-20 (from *The Message*)**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

"Don't suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God's Law or the Prophets. I'm not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God's Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God's Law will be alive and working.

"Trivialize even the smallest item in God's Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom. Unless you do far better than the Pharisees in the matters of right living, you won't know the first thing about entering the kingdom.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**SERMON****A Life of Salt and Light**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**RESPONSIVE SONG****O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee***(Washington Gladden, words; H. Percy Smith, music)*

Congregation

**Hymn No. 589****All Verses****THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND WELCOME INTO MEMBERSHIP****RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS***Thank you for your continued support of the church and our mission.*

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**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**

Joan Moyer 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\***

**Amen, Amen**  
(*African-American spiritual*)

Congregation

**Hymn No. 249****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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