

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
LENT
MARCH 8, 2026

Meditation

Anxiety is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained.

– *Arthur Somers Roche*

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

– *Corrie ten Boom*

Our anxiety does not come from thinking about the future, but from wanting to control it.

– *Kahlil Gibran*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Cindi Myers

Leader: We come, our souls thirsting for God, our spirits longing for love.

People: We come to the One who supplies every need; we come to the One who gives us living water.

Leader: We come, with prayers in our hearts and with words too painful to speak.

People: We come to the One who listens to our hearts, who carries our suffering through eternity.

Leader: We come, with our brokenness and loss, with our hope to be made whole.

People: We come to the One who knows all our secrets, who brings peace to all of us and to each of us.

OPENING PRAYER

Cindi Myers

When we were determined to remain at war with you, you sent the Prince of Peace. When our relationship with you was lying in pieces on the floor, you offered the broken Bread to restore us to wholeness. When our souls are empty, you fill them with living water. God in community; Jesus, Living Water; Holy Spirit, Comforter of our hearts, in this time of worship, may our hearts draw close to you, and may our trust grow deeper, that we may be refreshed and renewed to serve you beyond these walls. Amen.

WELCOMING SONG*

As Water to the Thirsty
(Timothy Dudley-Smith)

Congregation

Hymn No. 432

All Verses

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?"

But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Rest in God Alone: Psalm 62

UCSJ Choir

*(Curtis Stephan)***Refrain**

*Rest in God alone, rest in God alone,
Rest in God alone, my soul.*

Verse 1

*Only in God is my soul at rest;
From him comes my salvation.
He only is my rock,
And he only is my salvation,
My stronghold, my stronghold;
I shall not be disturbed at all. **Refrain***

Verse 2

*Only in God be at rest, my soul,
For from him comes my hope.
He only is my rock and he only is my salvation,
My stronghold, my stronghold;
I shall not be disturbed. **Refrain***

Verse 3

*With God is my safety and my glory,
He is the rock of my strength;
My refuge is in God.
Trust in him at all times, O my people!
Pour out your hearts before him. **Refrain***

SCRIPTURE READING**Romans 5:1-11**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**From Anxiety to Acceptance**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

RESPONSIVE SONG**Be Not Afraid**

Congregation

*(Bob Dufford)***Hymn No. 430****Verses 1 and 2****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

Cindi Myers 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 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.

CLOSING SONG***O Christ the Same**

Congregation

*(Timothy Dudley-Smith, words; Irish melody)***Hymn No. 433****All Verses****CLOSING PRAYER**

Cindi Myers

POSTLUDE***Instrumental***

Katy Kristoffersen

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor Melinda Veatch

(Songs and Music under One License #735313. Music is reprinted under copyright license CCLI11233542)

***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

Church Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday - 9 am to 1 pm.

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

OFFICE

Shirley Didier, Admin. Assistant
ucsjoffice@gmail.com