

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



**THIRD**  
**SUNDAY**  
**OF EASTER**  
**APRIL 19, 2026**

**MEDITATION**

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

—*Soren Kierkegaard*

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle.  
The other is as though everything is a miracle.

---*Albert Einstein*

What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

---*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pam Larson

**PRELUDE**

*Instrumental*

Katy Kristoffersen

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pam Larson

Leader: Sometimes good things are right in front of us and we don't see them.

**People: Our fears and our prejudices blind us.**

Leader: Open your eyes this day to see the goodness of the Lord.

**People: Open our hearts, gracious God, to receive your blessings.**

Leader: Hallelujah!

**People: Hallelujah!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Pam Larson

**O gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you, eyes to behold you, ears to listen for your Word, a heart to love you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**WELCOMING SONG\***

**He Lives**  
*(Alfred H. Ackley)*

Congregation

Hymn No. 302

**All Verses**

\*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Therefore let the entire House of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

**Lord, You have Come to the Lakeshore**

UCSJ Choir

*(Cesareo Gabarain; Arr. K. Kristoffersen)*

*Lord, you have come to the lakeshore  
Looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
You only asked me to follow humbly.*

**Refrain**

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,  
And while smiling, have spoken my name;  
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
By your side I will seek other seas.*

*You know so well my possessions;  
By boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
You will find there my nets and labor. **Refrain***

*You need my hands, full of caring,  
Through my labors to give others rest,  
And constant love that keeps on loving. **Refrain***

*You who have fished other oceans,  
Ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
My loving friend, so now you call me. **Refrain***

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "what are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty indeed in word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the woman had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near to the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed; and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**Look on Back!**

Rev. Carol Layton

RESPONSIVE SONG

**Take My Lie and Let It Be**  
(Frances R. Havergal, words; Henri A. César Malan)

Congregation

Hymn No. 466

All Verses

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Rev. Carol Layton

*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.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pam Larson and Rev. Carol Layton

**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\*

The Summons  
(John L. Bell; Scottish melody)

Congregation

Hymn No. 350

All Verses

CLOSING PRAYER

Pam Larson

Risen Savior, in love, you came to earth as the Anointed One to set apart, to prepare, and send out your faithful. In love, this community finds its purpose in serving those whom you have anointed. In love, we carry our anointing into the world so that we might fulfill the call you have placed in each of our lives. In the name of the one who has formed, redeemed, and inspired this community, we pray. Amen

POSTLUDE

*Instrumental*

Katy Kristoffersen

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Rev. Carol Layton

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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



Rev. Melinda A. Veatch    [ucsjpastor@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjpastor@gmail.com)

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

### MUSIC

Katy Kristoffersen, Director

### OFFICE

Shirley Didier, Admin. Assistant