

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



SEVENTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER  
ASCENSION SUNDAY  
MAY 17, 2026

**MEDITATION**

When Christ ascended triumphantly from star to star, he left the gates of Heaven ajar.

– *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

There's always another level up. There's always another ascension. More grace, more light, more generosity, more compassion, more to shed, more to grow.

– *Elizabeth Gilbert*

If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth.

– *Colossians 3:1*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**PRELUDE**

*Instrumental*

Katy Kristoffersen

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Adapted from Psalm 47**

Cindi Myers

Leader: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

**People: Sing praises to God, sing praises!**

Leader: For God is the ruler of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

**People: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Let us worship God.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Cindi Myers

**WELCOMING SONG\***

**Alleluia, Sing to Jesus**

Congregation

*(William C. Dix, words; Rowland H. Prichard, music)*

Hymn No. 320

All Verses

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

## ANTHEM

## Canticle of the Sun

UCSJ Choir

*(Marty Haugen)***Refrain**

*The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
And all creation is shouting for joy;  
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,  
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!*

*Sing to the sun, the bringer of day,  
He carries the light of the Lord in his rays;  
The moon and the stars who light up the way  
Unto your throne.*

*Praise to the wind, that blows through the trees,  
The seas mighty storms, the gentlest breeze;  
They blow where they will, they blow where they please  
To please the Lord. **Refrain***

*Praise to the rain, that waters our fields,  
And blesses our crops so all the earth yields;  
From death unto life her myst'ry revealed  
Springs forth in joy.*

*Praise to the fire, who gives us his light,  
The warmth of the sun to brighten our night;  
He dances with joy, his spirit so bright,  
He sings of you. **Refrain***

*Sing to the earth, who makes life to grow,  
The creatures you made to let your life show;  
The flowers and trees that help us to know  
The heart of Love.*

*Praise to our death, that makes our life real,  
The knowledge of loss that helps us to feel;  
The gift of yourself, your presence revealed  
To lead us home. **Refrain***

**SCRIPTURE READING****John 17:1-11**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come, Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours, you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them, I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON****In the Realm of Resilience**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**RESPONSIVE SONG****What the Lord Has Done in Me**

Congregation

*(Reuben Morgan)***Hymn No. 360****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****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\*****Lord of the Dance**

Congregation

*(Sydney Carter, words; Shaker melody, 19th c)***Hymn No. 118**

**Verses 1 and 2, then refrain  
Verses 3 and 4, then refrain  
Verse 5, then final refrain**

CLOSING PRAYER

Cindi Myers

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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