

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



**FIRST SUNDAY**  
**AFTER**  
**PENTECOST**  
**MAY 31, 2026**

**MEDITATION**

What you do has far greater impact than what you say.

– *Stephen Covey*

It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters.

– *Mother Teresa*

Service is what prayer looks like when it gets up off its knees and walks around the world.

– *Michael J. Graham, SJ*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**PRELUDE**

*Instrumental*

Katy Kristoffersen

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Joan Moyer

*Written by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, pastor at 1st Church Congregational, Rochester, NH*

Leader: What does the Lord require of you?

**People: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

Leader: What does God command of us?

**People: To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

Leader: God does not call us to ease or comfort.

**People: But to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.**

Leader: Let us worship the God who believes in us, and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**People: Let us worship the God who will ask much of us, but will be beside us every step of the way.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Joan Moyer

**WELCOMING SONG\***

**Morning Has Broken**

*(Eleanor Farjeon, words; Gaelic melody)*

Congregation

Hymn No. 35

All Verses

\*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

**SCRIPTURE READING****Galatians 5:1-6** (*The Message*)

Shirley Didier

Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

I am emphatic about this. The moment any one of you submits to circumcision or any other rule-keeping system, at that same moment Christ's hard-won gift of freedom is squandered. I repeat my warning: The person who accepts the ways of circumcision trades all the advantages of the free life in Christ for the obligations of the slave life of the law.

I suspect you would never intend this, but this is what happens. When you attempt to live by your own religious plans and projects, you are cut off from Christ, you fall out of grace. Meanwhile we expectantly wait for a satisfying relationship with the Spirit. For in Christ, neither our most conscientious religion nor disregard of religion amounts to anything. What matters is something far more interior: faith expressed in love.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM****Power of Love**

UCSJ Choir

(*Bob Hurd; Arr. K. Kristoffersen*)

*The power of Love, when the light burns low,  
Let us not be cold to a friend.*

*The power of Love, when the weary call,  
Let us give them all they may need.*

*The power of love.*

*Prince of Peace, I will sing your praise,  
I will make your ways my own.*

*Prince of Peace, let us all be one,  
Let our distance come to an end.*

*Prince of Peace.*

*Lamb of God, my heart overflows,  
And your Spirit goes where it will.*

*Lamb of God, we can never know  
Just how deep and bold love can be.*

*Lamb of God.*

**SCRIPTURE READING****Matthew 22:34-40**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Main Thing

Pastor Melinda Veatch

RESPONSIVE SONG

Loving Spirit

Congregation

*(Shirley Erena Murray, words; David Gregof Corner)*

Hymn No. 135

Verse 1 - All

Verse 2 - Women

Verse 3 - Men

Verses 4 and 5 - All

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

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 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\*

We Are Singing, for the Lord Is Our Light

Congregation

*(South African Zulu melody; tr., adapted, and original verses by Hal Hopson)*

Hymn No. 76

Verses 1-3

CLOSING PRAYER

Joan Moyer

Holy God, as we leave this place, help us to be vessels of your love. May our hearts be open to your guidance. Give us the willingness to reach out and embrace those in need without reservation. May our actions reflect and foster the compassion, truth, understanding, justice and healing that we see Jesus demonstrate in every interaction. May our lives be a testament to your unconditional love, bring hope and light to a world in darkness. Amen.

*From "Prayers for Pentecost" by the Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)*

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](mailto:ucsjpastor@gmail.com)

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

[www.ucsjridgway.org](http://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](mailto:ucsjmusic@gmail.com)

## OFFICE

Shirley Didier, Admin. Assistant  
[ucsjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjoffice@gmail.com)