

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST
JULY 12, 2026

MEDITATION

Every leaf that grows will tell you: what you sow will bear fruit, so if you have any sense,
my friend, don't plant anything but Love.

– Rumi

Love is the seed of all hope. It is the enticement to trust, to risk, to try, to go on.

– Gloria Gaither

Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed.
Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.

– Henry David Thoreau

Preach the Gospel always...use words if necessary.

– Francis of Assisi

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pam Larson

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from PC(USA) pastor, Rev. Avery Arden at binarybreakingworship.com)

Joan Moyer

Leader: Beloved community, we gather to worship the God who invites us to join in creating a
new world. When our souls are trampled on, made too hard to bear fruit,

People: let us gather.

Leader: When our hearts exclaim over God's word for a moment, but never break open to let
it sink in,

People: let us gather.

Leader: When the cares of the world prick at and stifle our spirits like thorns, leaving no room
for joy or hope, no time for kindness or compassion,

People: let us gather.

Leader: And when God comes, heals, cultivates in us hearts soft enough to receive, to nurture,
to blossom,

People: let us gather to worship our Creator, our Redeemer, the Breath within our lungs.

OPENING PRAYER

(From United Methodist pastor, Rev. Lisa Degrenia at revlisad.com)

Joan Moyer

Lord of Life, you sow your Word, your promises, your salvation, yourself. "Glory!" to your
grace and mercy. You save us from the stealing, the shallow, the choking thorns. "Glory!"
to your deliverance and power. You make our lives good rich soil, ready for your seed. In you,
we grow up and increase and yield. "Glory!" to your goodness and faithfulness. We rejoice in
you! Help us to bear your good and lasting fruit for the honor and glory of your name. Amen.

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

WELCOMING SONG***This is My Father's World**
(Maltbie D. Babcock, words; English melody)

Congregation

Hymn No. 21

All Verses**SCRIPTURE READING****Romans 8:1-11**

Cindi Myers

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law--indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.**ANTHEM****They'll Know We Are Christians**
(Peter Scholtes; arr. K. Kristoffersen)

UCSJ Choir

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.*

Refrain

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. **Refrain***

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. **Refrain***

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. **Refrain***

Here is one of the many stories he told them: “Listen!” he said. “A seed planter went to plant some seeds and began to scatter them about on the ground. Some seeds fell on the village pathway, and the winged ones pecked at the seeds and ate them all. Some of the seeds fell on the rocks where there was only a little dirt. The plants sprouted up quickly, but when the sun came out, they dried up because they had no roots. Other seeds fell in the weeds, and thistles sprouted around the seeds and choked the life out of them. But some seeds fell on good ground, grew strong, and gave a harvest. Some gave one hundred times what was planted, some sixty, and others thirty. The ones who have ears, let them hear and understand!”

“So then,” he said to his followers, “Listen with your hearts and I will tell you the meaning of the story of the seed planter. The seed in this story is the message from the Great Spirit about his good road. The seed planted on the village pathway represents the ones who hear but do not understand the message. The evil trickster sneaks up and snatches it from their hearts. The rocky ground represents the ones who hear and receive the message with the glad heart, but then because they have no roots, their faith is shallow and does not last. As soon as the message brings them trouble or opposition, they stumble and fall away. The seed planted among the weeds and thistles represents the ones who have heard the message, but they are too busy worrying about their earthly existence. The desire for more possessions leads them down a false path, and they never grow into mature human beings. The good ground represents the ones who, when they hear the message, understand it and let it grow in their hearts to produce a harvest, some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

When Words Get in the Way

Rev. Carol Layton

RESPONSIVE SONG

The Summons

Congregation

(John L. Bell, words; Scottish melody)

Hymn No. 350

Verses 1 and 4

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

Joan Moyer 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*

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Congregation

(Cesáreo Gabaráin)

Hymn No. 347

**Verses 1 and 2, then Refrain
Verses 3 and 4, then Refrain**

CLOSING PRAYER

(adapted from a prayer on the Catholic website, daily-prayers.org)

Joan Moyer

Lord of the harvest, your Word finds a home in our heart, calls us into community, and invites us to generous service of the human family. Bless us with your courage and spirit as we go out from worship today. May we be good soil for your Word and good sowers of it. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. 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



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