

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



**THIRTEENTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2026**

MEDITATION

None are more unjust in their judgments of others than those who have a high opinion of themselves.

— *Charles Spurgeon*

Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred.
It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness.

— *Corrie Ten Boom*

Bitterness is believing God got it wrong, worry is not believing God will get it right,
and unforgiveness is believing you are right even after God says you're wrong.

— *Randle Lawrence*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tim Spangler

Leader: Today we gather as God's people in this remarkable landscape, trusting that the Holy is at work, not only in what is dramatic and visible, but also in what is quiet, hidden, persistent, and full of grace. We gather as people from many places and traditions, drawn together by a longing for hope, justice, peace, and renewal.

People: In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst, we come to worship the One who feeds the hungry.

Leader: In the midst of a world filled with conflict, fear, and division,

People: we come to worship the One who calls us to compassion, justice, and courage.

Leader: In the midst of a world searching for meaning and hope,

People: we come to worship the One who breathes new life into weary hearts.

Leader: As these ancient mountains have been shaped over countless generations,

People: may we also be shaped by grace – patiently, faithfully, together.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Holy One,

People: whose love is as enduring as these ancient mountains, whose mercy is renewed each morning, and whose Spirit is always creating something new.

OPENING PRAYER

Tim Spangler

WELCOMING SONG*

If My People's Hearts Are Humbled
(Claire Cloninger, words; Leavitt's *The Christian Lyre*, 1830)

Congregation

Hymn No. 383

Both Verses

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

SCRIPTURE READING**Romans 14:1-12**

Pam Richardson

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written:

“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord,
‘every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM**Humble Yourself**

UCSJ Choir

(Arr. K. Kristoffersen)

*Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord,
And He will lift you up.
Hallelujah!*

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

On the Level

Pastor Melinda Veatch

RESPONSIVE SONG

Search Me, O God

Congregation

(J. Edwin Orr, words; Edward J. Hopkins, music)

Hymn No. 385

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

Tim Spangler 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*

Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands
(Fred Kaan, words; Irish melody)

Congregation

Hymn No. 389

All Verses

CLOSING PRAYER

Tim Spangler

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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