

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



SIXTEENTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

MEDITATION

Jesus loved people others rejected – even people who rejected him. This is how God loves.

– *Father Gregory Boyle*

Love God and do whatever you please: for the soul trained in love to God will do nothing to offend the one who is Beloved.

– *Saint Augustine*

To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known – and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God.

– *Timothy Keller*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Todd Schroedel

Leader: We come today to draw close to the heart of the One who is the Source of Love.

People: We come wondering how far God's love for us will stretch. We come hoping God's love for us will never break.

Leader: When we look at Jesus Christ, we see how far God's love for us will go, we are assured that God's love for us will never end. It will walk with us into the worst that we can be, ever calling us back to the best that God has always had in mind for us.

People: We come celebrating the life God calls us to live as beloved children. We come giving thanks for God's never-failing care. We come joyful that God's Spirit brings us together. Let us worship our God of love!

OPENING PRAYER

(adapted from a prayer by Reverend Peter W. Nimmo, Church of Scotland)

Todd Schroedel

God of love and power, we worship and praise you. Yet we often fail to see the depth of your love for us in Jesus Christ. We turn away from you to run after cheap imitations. Help us to recognize that in your grace, you have handed us a pearl of great price: your love that will not let us go. Strengthen us in the knowledge that you are for us. Remind us that Jesus went to the depths of hell to save us from all that breaks us. Give us the courage to offer our full selves to you. May be we bearers of your treasure and wisdom in our fallen world. We pray it in his name. Amen.

WELCOMING SONG*

In the Lord Alone

Congregation

(Walt Harrah)

Hymn No. 62

All Verses

SCRIPTURE READING**Romans 8:31-39**

Glenda Moore

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM**Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)**

UCSJ Choir

(Joel Houston, Matt Crocker, Salomon Ligthelm; Arr. Heather Sorenson)

*You call me out upon the waters,
The great unknown where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery,
In oceans deep, my faith will stand.*

Refrain

*And I will call upon Your Name,
And keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise my soul will rest in Your embrace.
I am Yours, and You are mine.*

*Your grace abounds in deepest waters;
Your sovereign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and you won't start now. **Refrain***

*Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders,
Let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander,
And my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Savior. **Refrain***

SCRIPTURE READING**Matthew 13:44-46**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**Holding Tight**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

RESPONSIVE SONG**I Surrender All**

Congregation

(Judson W. VanDeVenter, words; Winfield S. Weeden, music)

Hymn No. 474**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

Todd Schroedel 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***There’s Wideness in God’s Mercy**

Congregation

(Frederick W. Faber, words; Lizzie S. Tourjée, music)

Hymn No. 61**All Verses****CLOSING PRAYER**

Todd Schroedel

POSTLUDE***Instrumental***

Katy Kristoffersen

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor Melinda Veatch

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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