

CLOSING PRAYER

Pam Larson

Most Holy God, we are grateful for this time of worship. Help us take what we have heard today and apply it in our daily lives. May we be bold day by day to walk the talk and live our faith that others may come to know you and your abundant love. This we pray in Jesus name. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Rev. Vera E. Guebert-Steward

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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THE
United Church
OF THE San Juans

EIGHTEENTH

SUNDAY

AFTER

PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

MEDITATION

“During the Crimean War, the conditions in the military hospitals at Scutari were famously horrific before Florence Nightingale and her team arrived. It is said that Florence Nightingale was passing down a hospital ward of sorelywounded soldiers. She looked down on one wounded youth who said to her, “You are Christ to me.” A saint is someone in whom Christ lives. To those suffering soldiers, her presence, comfort, and commitment to their dignitydidn’t just save lives—it restored their hope and humanity.”

~ Pr. Linda Line

“Jesus is our perfect exemplar of one who talked the talk and walked the walk. His words and actions were always perfectly aligned exuding truth, authenticity, honesty, integrity and love.”

~ Bruce Fairbairn

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

~ James 2:14-17

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pam Larson

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pam Larson

Leader: Holy Trinity, Community of Love, Draw your children together this day.

People: Draw us across human boundaries, across denominations, across chasms we create.

Leader: Draw us together in your creative light for worship and praise.

People: Awaken us, your people, to collaboration and mutual callings.

Leader: Make us quick to celebrate, serve, and share.

People: Make us quick to live your love and proclaim our faith.

Leader: Make us joyful in the ways you gift each of us to further your Kingdom.

OPENING PRAYER

(From *Knowing Jesus*)

Pam Larson

Loving Lord, You call us into Your vineyard, and You look for the fruit of genuine obedience. Forgive us for the times our lips say; yes; to You, but our actions turn away. Give us the humble courage of the second son—the one who repented and went to work. Speak to us through Your Word today, and align our lives with Your will. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

WELCOMING SONG*

As Saints of Old Their First-fruits Brought
(Frank von Christierson, words; English melody)

Congregation

Hymn No. 570

All Verses

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Philippians 2:1-13

Gini Barker

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

Pam Larson

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness’ sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

UCSJ Choir

(African-American spiritual; arr. K. Kristoffersen)

I want Jesus to walk with me;

In my trouble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Jesus to walk with me;

In my trouble, Lord, walk with me;

All along my pilgrim journey,

When my head is bowed in trouble,

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me;

We’re the branches, and you’re the vine.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me;

I am yours, Lord, and you are mine.

When my heart is almost breaking,

It takes courage to bear the truth;

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

There’s work to do: I’ll walk with you.

I’ll walk with you.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:23-32

Rev. Vera E. Guebert-Steward

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Talking The Talk, Walking The Walk

Rev. Vera E. Guebert-Steward

RESPONSIVE SONG

Be Thou My Vision

Congregation

(Irish hymn, 8th c.)

Hymn No. 502

All Verses

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your continued support of the church and our mission.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious and generous God, as we bring our offerings before you, we ask for your guidance in fine-tuning our faith. Help us to trust you more deeply, to step out in faith, and to follow where you lead. May our giving today be an expression of our deepening faith in you. Amen.

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

Pam Larson and Rev. Vera E. Guebert-Steward

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 sin, 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*

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning
(Ruth Duck, words; Attr. B. F. White)

Congregation

Hymn No. 551

All Verses