

CLOSING SONG*

When We Are Living
(Spanish melody; arr. Hal H. Hopson)

Congregation

Hymn No. 415

Both Verses

CLOSING PRAYER

Angela Todd

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



Rev. Melinda A. Veatch ucsjpastor@gmail.com

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

www.ucsjridgway.org 970-626-5802 P.O. Box 295, 295 N. Lena St, Ridgway CO 81432 Facebook/UCSJ Ridgway

MUSIC

Katy Kristoffersen, Director
ucsjmusic@gmail.com

OFFICE

Shirley Didier, Admin. Assistant
ucsjoffice@gmail.com

THE
United Church
OF THE San Juans



TWENTIETH

SUNDAY

AFTER

PENTECOST

OCTOBER 11, 2026

MEDITATION

We are not trying to manipulate God and tell God what to do.
Rather, we are asking God to tell us what to do.

– Richard J. Foster

I mistakenly thought I could not trust God unless I felt like trusting him. Now I am learning that trusting God is first of all a matter of the will. I choose to trust God, and my feelings eventually follow.

– Margaret Clarkson

Let me remind you that this is God’s universe, and God is doing things his way. You may think you have a better way, but you don’t have a universe to rule.

– J. Vernon McGee

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Psalm 19)

Angela Todd

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

People: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

People: Let us worship the Creator who gives us life and orders our lives with love.

OPENING PRAYER

Angela Todd

WELCOMING SONG*

How Can I Keep from Singing
(Robert Lowry)

Congregation

Hymn No. 424

All Verses

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

Shirley Didier

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:33-46

Pastor Melinda Veatch

I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:
My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.
He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.
Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.
“Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?
Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge,
and it will be destroyed;
I will break down its wall,
and it will be trampled.
I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briers and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds
not to rain on it.”
The vineyard of the Lord Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Open the Eyes of My Heart
(Paul Baloche; arr. K. Kristoffersen)

UCSJ Choir

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. “They will respect my son,” he said.

“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, “This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

““The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes?”

“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The World Beyond Us

Pastor Melinda Veatch

RESPONSIVE SONG

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
(Edward Mote, words; William B. Bradbury, music)

Congregation

Hymn No. 405

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

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

Angela Todd 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 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.