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| **CLOSING SONG*** | **Let All Things Now Living**<br>(*Katherine K. Davis, words; Welsh melody*) | Congregation |
| **HYMN NO. 22** | **Both Verses** | |
| **CLOSING PRAYER** | | Bob McDaniel |
| **POSTLUDE** | | Ron and Dee James |
| **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**

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# United Church OF THE San Juans




**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**NOVEMBER 8, 2026**

## MEDITATION

But the man who is not afraid to admit everything that he sees to be wrong with himself, and yet recognizes that he may be the object of God's love precisely because of his shortcomings, can begin to be sincere. His sincerity is based on confidence, not in his own illusions about himself, but in the endless, unfailing mercy of God.

*– Thomas Merton*

I have decided to love. If you are seeking the highest good, I think you can find it through love. And the beautiful thing is that we are moving against wrong when we do it, because John was right, God is love. He who hates does not know God, but he who has love has the key that unlocks the door to the meaning of ultimate reality.

*– Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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| **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** | | Pastor Melinda Veatch |
| **PRELUDE** | ***Instrumental*** | Ron and Dee James |
| **CALL TO WORSHIP** | | Bob McDaniel |

Leader: To know the warmth of love, and to have the assurance that someone cares,

**People: To be confident of our worth, and to be bold to love in return,**

Leader: To be washed over with grace, and to be accepted as we are,

**People: We open our hearts and spirits to receive God's loving gifts.**

Leader: This is to know a bit of God.

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

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| **OPENING PRAYER** | | Bob McDaniel |
| **WELCOMING SONG*** | **All Creatures of Our God and King**<br>(*St. Francis of Assisi, words; Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623*) | Congregation |
| **HYMN NO. 23** | **Verses 1, 3, 4, and 5** | |

**SCRIPTURE READING** **1 John 4:7-12, 16a-21** Charlotte Duckett

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** **Great Is Thy Faithfulness** UCSJ Choir

(*Thomas O. Chisholm, words; William M. Runyan, music*)

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.*
*There is no shadow of turning with thee.*
*Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.*
*As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

**Refrain**

*Great is thy faithfulness!*
*Great is thy faithfulness!*
*Morning by morning new mercies I see.*
*All I have needed thy hand hath provided.*
*Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,*
*sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,*
*join with all nature in manifold witness*
*to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.* **Refrain**

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,*
*thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,*
*strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;*
*blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!* **Refrain**

**SCRIPTURE READING** **Luke 7:36-50** Pastor Melinda Veatch

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON** **Give Yourself to Love** Pastor Melinda Veatch

**RESPONSIVE SONG** **Give Thanks** Congregation

(*Henry Smith*)

**HYMN NO. 359** **As Written**

**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** Bob McDaniel 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.**