CLOSING SONG* **Prepare the Way of the Lord** Congregation
(Isaiah, 40:3; *Jacques Berthier, music*) and UCSJ Choir

HYMN NO. 174

Sing together 3x
Right side of the church starts the round 4x
Left side of the church comes in next 4x
Choir comes in next! - 4x
On your 4th time - repeat "and all people will see the salvation of our God" until we come together!

CLOSING PRAYER Joan Moyer

POSTLUDE **Of the Father's Love Begotten** Mike and Katy Kristoffersen
(*Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th c.; Plainsong, 13th c.*)

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

United Church OF THE San Juans



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

COMING HOME TO WONDER

LIVING IN HOPE

MEDITATIONS

Hope is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all.
– *Emily Dickinson*

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.
– *Desmond Tutu*

Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.
– *Maya Angelou*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE **Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow** Vince Snowbarger, Soloist
(*African-American spiritual*)
(Text may be found in the hymnal, No. 209

CALL TO WORSHIP Joan Moyer

Leader: We hope… With each second, with every hour.

People: We hope… Through each day, through each season.

Leader: We hope… Knowing God's Day is coming.

People: We hope… Knowing God's work will be done.

Leader: Like a burning candle that stands watch through the night,

People: We hope in the God whose love is steadfast and whose promises never end. Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER Joan Moyer

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Bob and Pam Larson, candle lighters

Each Sunday of Advent we light a candle signifying the light of Christ coming into the world. This Sunday we light the first candle with the hope that comes from knowing that Christ's light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Leader: Hear these words from the gospel of John.
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God…. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

This candle represents the hope we have in Jesus Christ and the hope we carry as we walk in his Way.

People: Let the hope of the Light of the World infuse our hearts, and let us carry it out into the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

WELCOMING SONG* **Prepare the Way, O Zion** Congregation

(*Frans Mikael Franzen, words; Then Swenska Psalmboken, 1697*)

HYMN NO. 152 **All Verses**

SCRIPTURE READING **Isaiah 2:1-5** Gini Barker

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:
In the last days
the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.
Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

ANTHEM **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** UCSJ Choir

(*Latin, 9th c.; Arr. M. McDonald*) Cindi Myers, soloist

O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavn'ly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER / SILENCE

SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 24:36-44** Pastor Melinda Veatch

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

RESPONSIVE SONG **Blessed Be the God of Israel** Congregation

(*Michael Perry, words; Hal H. Hopson, music*)

HYMN NO. 158 **All Verses**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

OFFERATORY **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** Soloists,

(*Liturgy of St. James, 4th c.; French melody, 17th c.*) Shirley Didier and

Text may be found in the hymnal, No. 232 Vince Snowbarger

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 Joan Moyer 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.