

ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 18, 2020

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



**We are a church where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary,
and where together, we grow a just and peaceful world.**

Gathering Music	Betsy Stelzer, Accompanist
Welcome	Rev. Kelly Wadsworth
Call to Worship	Vicky Smith, Liturgist
Opening Song	<i>Rock of Ages</i> Thomas Hastings and Augustus Montague Toplady Led by Betsy Stelzer
Scripture Reading	Exodus 32:1-16

When the people realized that Moses was taking forever in coming down off the mountain, they rallied around Aaron and said, “Do something. Make gods for us who will lead us. That Moses, the man who got us out of Egypt—who knows what’s happened to him?”

So Aaron told them, “Take off the gold rings from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters and bring them to me.” They all did it; they removed the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from their hands and cast it in the form of a calf, shaping it with an engraving tool.

The people responded with enthusiasm: “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up from Egypt!”

Aaron, taking in the situation, built an altar before the calf.

Aaron then announced, “Tomorrow is a feast day to GOD!”

Early the next morning, the people got up and offered Whole-Burnt-Offerings and brought Peace-Offerings. The people sat down to eat and drink and then began to party. It turned into a wild party!

GOD spoke to Moses, “Go! Get down there! Your people whom you brought up from the land of Egypt have fallen to pieces. In no time at all they’ve turned away from the way I commanded them: They made a molten calf and worshiped it. They’ve sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are the gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt!’”

GOD said to Moses, “I look at this people—oh! what a stubborn, hard-headed people! Let me alone now, give my anger free reign to burst into flames and incinerate them. But I’ll make a great nation out of you.”

Moses tried to calm his GOD down. He said, “Why, GOD, would you lose your temper with your people? Why, you brought them out of Egypt in a tremendous demonstration of power and strength. Why let the Egyptians say, ‘He had it in for them—he brought them out so he could kill them in the mountains, wipe them right off the face of the Earth.’ Stop your anger. Think twice about bringing evil against your people! Think of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants to whom you gave your word, telling them ‘I will give you many children, as many as the stars in the sky, and I’ll give this land to your children as their land forever.’”

And GOD did think twice. He decided not to do the evil he had threatened against his people. Moses turned around and came down from the mountain, carrying the two tablets of The Testimony. The tablets were written on both sides, front and back. God made the tablets and God wrote the tablets—engraved them.

Sermon Pastor Kelly

Sung Response Cantor:
In the midst of new dimensions,
In the face of changing ways
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

Congregation:
God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar
We your people,
ours the journey now and ever,

Offering Prayer

Please donate generously through alkiucc.org, through a mailed donation to the church office or through text-to-give by texting the word “AlkiUCC” to 44321 and a donation link will come back to you. Your support for Alki is more important now than ever as the church seeks to be a prophetic voice for all people in the year ahead.

Musical Offering Water From The Rock John Angotti

Closing Prayer

Moment of Ministry Outreach/Social Justice

Prayer Requests/Announcements

Third Hymn Selected and Introduced by Dave Smith
Eternal Father, Strong to Save (Navy Hymn) William Whiting

Benediction/Postlude

Hospitality Hour

Important note: Alki UCC Sunday worship is recorded for posting on YouTube.

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