

ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 14, 2021

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



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. Louis Mitchell
Call to Worship	Charlie Hinckley, Liturgist
Opening Song	<i>A New Hallelujah</i> Michael W & Debbie Smith, Paul Baloche
Contemporary Voice	“Healing begins where the wound was made.” — Alice Walker
Scripture Readings	<p>Numbers 21:4-9 (The Message) They set out from Mount Hor along the Red Sea Road, a detour around the land of Edom. The people became irritable and cross as they traveled. They spoke out against God and Moses: “Why did you drag us out of Egypt to die in this godforsaken country? No decent food; no water—we can’t stomach this stuff any longer.”</p> <p>So God sent poisonous snakes among the people; they bit them and many in Israel died. The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke out against God and you. Pray to God; ask him to take these snakes from us.”</p> <p>Moses prayed for the people.</p> <p>God said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it on a flagpole: Whoever is bitten and looks at it will live.”</p> <p>So Moses made a snake of fiery copper and put it on top of a flagpole. Anyone bitten by a snake who then looked at the copper snake lived.</p> <p>John 3:14-21 (The Message, edited) “No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.</p>

“This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person’s failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

“This is the crisis we’re in: God-light streamed into the world, but people everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won’t come near it, fearing a painful exposure. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is.”

Sermon “God’s Recycling” Rev. Louis Mitchell

Sung Response *Again We Keep This Solemn Fast* Gregory the Great
Again we keep this solemn fast, a gift of faith from ages past
This Lent, which binds us lovingly to faith and hope and charity

More sparing, therefore, let us make the words we speak, the food we take
Our sleep, our laughter, every sense, learn peace through holy penitence

Call to Offering/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 *Be Thou My Vision* Traditional Irish Melody

Closing Prayer

Moment of Ministry Outreach/Social Justice Julia Chase

Announcements

Third Hymn *Turn, Turn, Turn* Pete Seeger
The Bitter and the Sweet
Introduced by Sue Backs

Benediction Rev. Louis

Postlude

Hospitality Hour

Alki UCC Sunday worship is recorded for posting on YouTube.