

ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 11, 2021, 2021

The First Sunday after Easter



**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 Vicky S, Liturgist

Opening Song *Are You Washed In The Blood Of The Lamb?* Elisha Albright Hoffman

Contemporary Voice “When I say I love you more, I don’t mean I love you more than you love me. I mean I love you more than the bad days ahead of us, I love you more than any fight we will ever have. I love you more than the distance between us, I love you more than any obstacle that could try and come between us. I love you the most.” — *Unknown*

Scripture Readings **Psalms 133:1-3** (adapted from *The Message*)

How wonderful, how beautiful, when siblings get along!
It’s like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard,
Flowing down Aaron’s beard, flowing down the collar of his priestly robes.
It’s like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion.
Yes, that’s where God commands the blessing, ordains eternal life.

Acts 4:32-35(adapted from *The Message*)

The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of Jesus, and grace was on all of them.

And so it turned out that not a person among them was needy. Those who owned fields or houses sold them and brought the price of the sale to the apostles and made an offering of it. The apostles then distributed it according to each person's need.

Sermon

"Dream Big(ger), part 1"

Rev. Louis Mitchell

Prayers of the People

(We invite you to stay muted or unmute as you desire. Please be respectful of the privacy of those names you lift in prayer — this is the internet and by its nature not completely private.)

Loving God, we lift our voices in prayer. We come to share our gratitude, our fears, our deepest hopes, and our unanswerable questions. We open our hearts to let you in to our most tender places and to share all that we hold most dear. We trust that we will be held, that we will be loved. In times of trial, help us hold on to that trust.

God, hear our prayers!

God of abundant grace, you have blessed us with unconditional love. We offer ourselves in all of our brokenness, knowing that in you, all things are whole. When we stray from your ways of justice and compassion, call us back. Have mercy on us, and help us to begin again in love.

We are imperfect, and yet, we are beloved. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Holy One, there are many among us who suffer today, whether in mind, body or spirit. We lift up the names of our loved ones, and we pray for the healing of all who suffer.

(Please say the names, aloud or in your heart, of anyone who is in need of healing.)

We pray, too, for those who have financial needs, who are in need of employment, and who are in need of economic justice. We lift up the names of our loved ones, and we pray for a world in which no one's needs will go unmet.

(Please say the names, aloud or in your heart, of anyone who is experiencing such need.)

Gathered together in love, we gather also in remembrance. We remember those who have come before us, whose love and whose sacrifices have touched our lives, making it possible for us to be as we are. As we speak the names of our departed loved ones, we offer a prayer of thanks for these precious memories and we pray that you will comfort all who mourn.

(Please speak the names of anyone you wish to remember today.)

As our world is filled with suffering, need and grief, it is also filled with blessing and abundance. Mindful of the abundance in our own lives, we offer thanks!

(Please name aloud those blessings for which you are thankful.)

In our hearts, we carry many individual prayers. Knowing that we are all connected, one in the body of Christ, we lift up these prayers together. The prayer of one among us is the prayer of all.

(Please take a moment to offer your prayer silently)

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers!

Creator God, you have called us into being and given us purposes to fulfill. Each of us has unique gifts, and all our gifts are needed in your world.

Help us to hear and to heed our callings.

This church, too, has a calling. We come together to discern our purpose and to live into it together. Fill our hearts with love for you and your world. Strengthen us for the service ahead. Give us the courage to let go of all that holds us back from fulfilling your desires. Give us the wisdom and the creativity to discover new ways of being. God, you have called us here.

What are you calling us to do? Speak, for your servants are listening

(Let us remain in silent prayer as we listen for God.)

Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by the Rev. Jamez Terry

A Service of Dedication for the Pastoral Search Committee

Rev. Mike Denton

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

Beautiful Things

Michael and Lisa Gungor

Announcements

Moment of Ministry

Building and Grounds

Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Chris Tomlin

Benediction

Rev. Louis Mitchell

Postlude

Hospitality Hour

Alki UCC Sunday worship is recorded for posting on YouTube.

###

You are welcome to join the Worship and Music team meeting after worship.

Info: Joe M kalanicorp@gmail.com