

# ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 6, 2021

## The Second Sunday After Pentecost Communion Sunday

*Please prepare your bread and cup for at-home Communion.*



**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**                        Joe M, Liturgist

**Sung Response**                        *Sanctuary*                                John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs

**Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

**Contemporary Voice**                “If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are halfway through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook on life will change. Fear of people and economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves. Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us - sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.”

— *From the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous*

**Opening Song**                        *More Than Conquerors*                        Rend Collective

**Scripture Readings**      **Psalm 138**      (NSRV)

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;  
I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;  
for you have exalted your name and your word  
above everything.  
On the day I called, you answered me,  
you increased my strength of soul.  
All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.  
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,  
for great is the glory of the Lord.  
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;  
but the haughty he perceives from far away.  
Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;  
you stretch out your hand,  
and your right hand delivers me.  
The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

**2 Corinthians 4:13- 18**

*(The Message)*

We're not keeping this quiet, not on your life. Just like the psalmist who wrote, "I believed it, so I said it," we say what we believe. And what we believe is that the One who raised up the Master Jesus will just as certainly raise us up with you, alive. Every detail works to your advantage and to God's glory: more and more grace, more and more people, more and more praise!

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

**Sermon**      "Gratitude is a Power Tool!"

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*

**Communion**

**Words of Institution and Consecration**

Rev. Louis

**Communion Music***In Bread and Wine*

Southern Folk Hymn

**Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Please pray the prayer of thanksgiving with me:

**Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of your chosen and beloved One.**

**Jesus, we take you into ourselves, symbolically but earnestly.**

**We strive to be one flesh with You, one heart with You,**

**We strive to be Your hands here in this time and place where You have planted us to serve.**

**Amen.**

**Call to Offering/Offering Prayer**

*Please donate generously through [alkiucc.org](http://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 City (from "Godspell")*

Stephen Schwarz

**Announcements****Moment of Ministry**

Outreach/Social Justice

**Third Hymn***Pues Si Vivimos (In All Our Living)*  
Introduced by Emily H

Mexican Folk Hymn

**Benediction**

Rev. Louis Mitchell

**Sung Benediction****Postlude****Hospitality Hour**

*Alki UCC Sunday worship is recorded for posting on YouTube.*

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*Join the Worship and Music team and add your voice to planning worship through the summer.*

Contact: Joe M at [kalanicorp@gmail.com](mailto:kalanicorp@gmail.com)