

# ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 20, 2021  
Father's Sunday



**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**                      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**            "The will of God will never take you,  
Where the grace of God cannot keep you,  
Where the arms of God cannot support you,  
Where the riches of God cannot supply your needs,  
Where the power of God cannot endow you.

The will of God will never take you,  
Where the spirit of God cannot work through you,  
Where the wisdom of God cannot teach you,  
Where the army of God cannot protect you,  
Where the hands of God cannot mold you.

The will of God will never take you,  
Where the love of God cannot enfold you,  
Where the mercies of God cannot sustain you,  
Where the peace of God cannot calm your fears,  
Where the authority of God cannot overrule for you.

The will of God will never take you,  
Where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears,  
Where the Word of God cannot feed you,  
Where the miracles of God cannot be done for you,  
Where the omnipresence of God cannot find you." — *Author unknown*

**Opening Song**                      TBA

**Scripture Readings:**        **Job 38:1-11**                                      (adapted from The Message)

And now, finally, God answered Job from the eye of a violent storm. God said:  
“Why do you confuse the issue?  
Why do you talk without knowing what you’re talking about?  
Pull yourself together, Job! Up on your feet! Stand tall!  
I have some questions for you, and I want some straight answers.  
Where were you when I created the earth?  
Tell me, since you know so much!  
Who decided on its size? Certainly you’ll know that!  
Who came up with the blueprints and measurements?  
How was its foundation poured, and who set the cornerstone,  
While the morning stars sang in chorus and all the angels shouted praise?  
And who took charge of the ocean when it gushed forth like a baby from the womb?  
That was me! I wrapped it in soft clouds, and tucked it in safely at night.  
Then I made a playpen for it, a strong playpen so it couldn’t run loose,  
And said, ‘Stay here, this is your place.  
Your wild tantrums are confined to this place.’

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13**                                      (The Message)

Companions as we are in this work with you, we beg you, please don’t squander one bit of this marvelous life God has given us. God reminds us,

I heard your call in the nick of time;

The day you needed me, I was there to help.

Well, now is the right time to listen, the day to be helped. Don’t put it off; don’t frustrate God’s work by showing up late, throwing a question mark over everything we’re doing. Our work as God’s servants gets validated—or not—in the details. People are watching us as we stay at our post, alertly, unswervingly, in hard times, tough times, bad times; when we’re beaten up, jailed, and mobbed; working hard, working late, working without eating; with pure heart, clear head, steady hand; in gentleness, holiness, and honest love; when we’re telling the truth, and when God’s showing his power; when we’re doing our best setting things right; when we’re praised, and when we’re blamed; slandered, and honored; true to our word, though distrusted; ignored by the world, but recognized by God; terrifically alive, though rumored to be dead; beaten within an inch of our lives, but refusing to die; immersed in tears, yet always filled with deep joy; living on handouts, yet enriching many; having nothing, having it all.

Dear, dear Corinthians, I can’t tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious life. We didn’t fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren’t small, but you’re living them in a small way. I’m speaking as plainly as I can and with great affection. Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!

**Sermon**        “Getting ‘Swole’ in Faith!”

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*

**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**            TBA

**Announcements**

**Moment of Ministry**        Council

**Third Hymn**                    TBA

**Benediction**                  Rev. Louis Mitchell

**Postlude**

**Hospitality Hour**

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

####