

ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 4, 2021

The Sixth 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 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 "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains,
but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."
— *Nelson Mandela*

Opening Songs: *Glory, Glory Hallelujah* African American Spiritual
How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies
Katherine Lee Bates & Miriam Therese Winter

Scripture Readings **Ezekiel 2:1-5** (adapted from the NRSV)

God said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when God spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard God speaking to me. God said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

2 Corinthians 1:12-14

(adapted from *The Message*)

Now that the worst is over, we're pleased we can report that we've come out of this with conscience and faith intact, and can face the world — and even more importantly, face you with our heads held high. But it wasn't by any fancy footwork on our part. It was God who kept us focused, uncompromised.

Don't try to read between the lines or look for hidden meanings in this letter. We're writing plain, unembellished truth, hoping that you'll now see the whole picture as well as you've seen some of the details. We want you to be as proud of us as we are of you when we stand together before our Master Jesus.

Sermon "What Price Freedom?"

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

Rev. Louis

Communion Music

This Is My Song

Lloyd Stone

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, 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

Why We Sing

Kirk Franklin

Moment of Ministry

Building and Grounds

Announcements

Third Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley

Benediction

Rev. Louis Mitchell

Sung Response

Peace I Leave With You, My Friends

Ray Repp

**Peace I leave with you, my friends
Shalom my peace in all you do
Peace I leave with you my friends
I give to you so you can give to others too**

**Take my hand and be at peace
The spirit of our love I send
And with this love you will be free
Until I come again**

**Peace I leave with you, my friends
Shalom my peace in all you do
Peace I leave with you my friends
I give to you so you can give to others too**

Postlude

Hospitality Hour

Alki UCC Sunday worship is recorded for posting on YouTube.

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