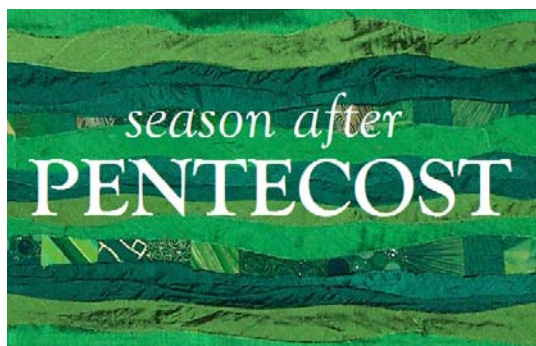


# ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 29, 2021

## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**We are a church where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary,  
and where together, we grow a just and peaceful world.**

- Gathering Music** Verona R, Accompanist
- Welcome** Rev. Louis Mitchell
- Call to Worship** Jeff D, 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** "Religion is a guy in church thinking about fishing. Relationship is a  
guy out fishing thinking about God."  
— *Author Unknown*
- Opening Song** TBA
- Scripture Readings:** **1 Samuel 16:7** (NRSV)  
But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his  
stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on  
the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."
- James 1:17-27** (adapted from The Message)  
So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift  
comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Light. There is  
nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. God brought us to life using  
the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all of creation.
- Act on What You Hear. Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears,  
follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness  
doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the  
garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a  
salvation-garden of your life.

Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.

But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of their eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a person of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action.

Anyone who sets themself up as “religious” by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.

**Sermon** “Re-claiming Religion: A Story of Relationship” 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**

### **Announcements**

**Moment of Ministry**      Council

**Third Hymn**                TBA

**Benediction**                Rev. Louis Mitchell

**Sung Benediction**        *Peace I Leave With You, My Friends*                Ray Repp

### **Postlude**

### **Hospitality Hour**

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