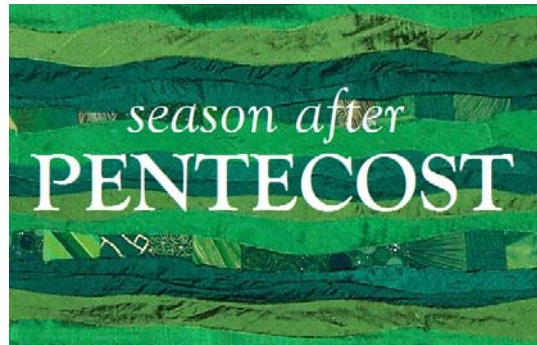


ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 12, 2021

Sixteenth 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	Zachary Kellogg, Guest Accompanish
Welcome	Rev. Louis Mitchell
Call to Worship	Joe M, Liturgist
Sung Response	<i>Sanctuary</i> 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	"When we love, we always strive to become better than we are. When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too." — <i>Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist</i>
Opening Song	<i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i> Hymn #403/NCH
Scripture Readings:	Proverbs 1:20-33 (NRSV)

The Call of Wisdom

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?

Give heed to my reproof; will pour out my thoughts to you;

I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof,

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you,

when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord,

would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof,

therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices.

For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

James 3:1-6, 13-18

(First Nations Version)

My sacred family members, not many of you should become teachers of our spiritual ways.

For you know that we who teach will face a stricter judgment.

We all stumble on the path in many ways.

But if we could keep our words from hurting others, we would be mature human beings, able to aim our whole lives in the right direction.

Those who put bits into the mouths of horses are able to move them in the direction they want them to go. It is the same with a canoe. Even when a large canoe is being pushed by strong winds, it takes only a small paddle to steer it where someone wants to go.

In the same way, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it boasts about great things. A large forest can be set on fire by a tiny flame, and the tongue is itself a flame of fire. The tongue is a world full of evil and spreads its poison throughout the body. The words spoken by the tongue have the power to set on fire the very circle of life itself, and its flames come from the Valley of Smoldering Fire.

Are any among you wise and understanding? Then show it in the way you live, doing good from a humble and wise heart. But if your hearts are full of bitter envy and selfish desires, then stop boasting and speaking lies to cover up the truth about yourselves. This is not the kind of wisdom that comes down from the One Above Us All. Instead, it is from this world. It is unspiritual and of the evil one. For where there is jealousy and selfish ways, you will also find confusion and all kinds of evil at work.

But the wisdom that comes from the One Above Us All is first of all pure, then peace-loving, gentle, full of mercy, and open to another's way of seeing and thinking. People with this kind of wisdom are like trees filled with good fruit. They have open hearts with nothing to hide.

This wisdom will bring about a harvest of doing what is right, because they are peacemakers planting seeds of peace.

Sermon "Body Language" Rev. Louis Mitchell

Second Hymn Amazing Grace Hymn #547/NCH

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, 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 Future Story/Steering Committee

Third Hymn *In Christ There Is No East or West* Hymn #394/NCH

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.

####