

ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 7, 2021

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Communion Sunday



**Please prepare your own Bread and Cup
for at-home worship.**

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

Gathering Music David Duvall, Guest Accompanist

Welcome Rev. Louis J. Mitchell

Call to Worship Charlie H, 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 Voices “The creative process is a process of surrender, not control.”
— *Julia Cameron, author of “The Artist’s Way”*

Opening Song *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* Traditional Spiritual

Scripture Readings: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”

Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.” She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Psalm 127:1-2 4

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

Mark 12:10-11

Have you not read this scripture:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?’”

Sermon

“Our Journey Ahead”

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.)

Pastor: 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.

All: God, hear our prayers!

Pastor: 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.

All: We are imperfect, and yet, we are beloved. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Pastor: 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.)

Pastor: 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.)

Pastor: 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.)

Pastor: 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.)

Pastor: 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)

All: God, in your mercy, hear our prayers!

Pastor: 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.

All: Help us to hear and to heed our callings.

Pastor: 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.

All: What are you calling us to do? Speak, for your servants are listening

(Let us remain in silent prayer as we listen for God.)

All: Amen. (Adapted from a prayer by the Rev. Jamez Terry)

Communion

Words of Institution and Consecration

Rev. Louis Mitchell

Communion Music

Communion Prayer: 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	<i>Journey of Joy</i>	David Duvall
Announcements		
Moment of Ministry	Council	
Closing Hymn	Hymn #516 (NCH)	<i>O Grant Us, God, A Little Space</i>
Benediction	Rev. Louis Mitchell	
Sung Benediction	<i>Peace I Leave With You, My Friends</i>	Ray Repp
Postlude		
Hospitality Hour		

Alki UCC Sunday worship is recorded for posting on YouTube.

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