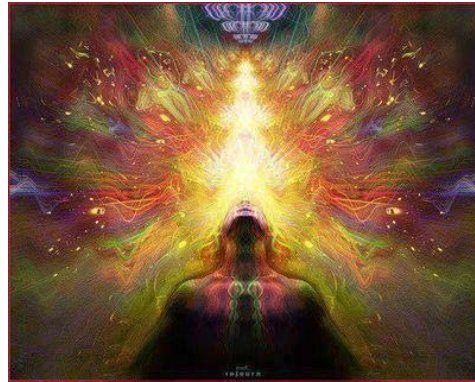


# ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 23, 2022

## The Third Sunday after Epiphany “January Jesus” Series



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

<b>Gathering Music</b>	Zachary Kellogg, Guest Accompanist
<b>Welcome</b>	Rev. Louis J. Mitchell
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Joe M, Liturgist
<b>Sung Response</b>	<i>Sanctuary</i> John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs <b>Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.</b>

**Contemporary Voice** “I loved this epistle so much that I decided to share it with my informal Qur’anic study group – a circle of friends which, for many years, has met once every week or two to read and discuss Islam’s scripture and its exegeses.

As believing yet questioning Muslims, my friends were happy to listen when I said I wanted to read them a passage from the Christian Bible. They listened carefully and, as I expected, they liked what they heard.

‘This is very similar to the Qur’an,’ one of my friends said. ‘And there is nothing in it which says that Jesus is the Son of God. Are you sure it is from the Christian Bible?’

Yes, yes, of course, I replied. It is from the New Testament, and it is called the Epistle of James.

‘James? Who’s James?’ one of them asked.

In return, I asked myself: Yes, really who was James?”

— *Mustafa Akyol, “The Islamic Jesus”*

**Opening Song** *Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here, #361 NCH*

## Scripture Readings:

### Genesis 16:1-3 (NRSV)

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children.

She had an Egyptian slave-girl whose name was Hagar, and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave-girl; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave-girl, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife.

### James 4:13-17 (The Message)

And now I have a word for you who brashly announce,

"Today—at the latest, tomorrow—we're off to such and such a city for the year.

We're going to start a business and make a lot of money."

You don't know the first thing about tomorrow.

You're nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing.

Instead, make it a habit to say, "If the Master wills it and we're still alive, we'll do this or that."

As it is, you are full of your grandiose selves. All such vaunting self-importance is evil. In fact, if you know the right thing to do and don't do it, that, for you, is evil.

**Second Song**      *I Come to the Garden Alone, #237 NCH*

**Sermon**            "Jesus, Teacher of Great Wisdoms — The Muslim Connection"    Rev. Louis

**Prayer Time**      Pastoral Prayer                      *Invitation to The Lord's prayer.*

## 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**            Chasen Senem                                      Traditional

## Announcements

**Moment of Ministry**      Worship and Music

**Closing Song**              *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, #43 NCH*

**Benediction**                Rev. Louis Mitchell

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

## Postlude

## Hospitality Hour

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*Musical selections subject to change.*

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