



## ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 26, 2023

Order of Service for the Worship of God

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

#### Gathering Music

Becky Cain, Accompanist

Bethany Bevier, Guitar

#### Welcome

Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel

#### Call to Worship

Cinda S, Liturgist (responsive)

Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

**Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?**

Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

**Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?**

If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

Hope lives here.

**So, come. Rest your weary bones.**

Let us worship Holy God.

#### Sung Response

*Wait for the Lord*

Jacques Berthier

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

#### Prayer for Transformation (unison)

Jesus of Nazareth,

I confess: I forget that you know this feeling.

I forget that you, too, have wept.

I forget that you, too, have lost.

I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb,

have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.

Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you.

Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could never feel what I feel.

Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us. Pour yourself

into the cracks in my heart. Bring these bones back to life. Bring me closer to you. With gratitude I pray, amen.

## Words of Grace

**Opening Song** #283, *Spirit of the Living God* (2x) (music at end)

**Scripture Readings** **Ezekiel 37:1-14** NRSV

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

### **John 11:1-45**

The Voice, adapted

There was a certain man who was very ill. He was known as Lazarus from Bethany, which is the hometown of Mary and her sister Martha. *Mary did a beautiful thing for Jesus. She anointed the Lord with a pleasant-smelling oil and wiped His feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus became deathly ill, so the sisters immediately sent a message to Jesus which said, "Lord, the one You love is very ill."* Jesus heard the message and said:

Jesus: His sickness will not end in his death but will bring great glory to God. As these events unfold, the Son of God will be exalted.

Jesus *dearly* loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. However, after receiving this news, He waited two more days where He was. Jesus *spoke to the disciples,*

Jesus: It is time to return to Judea.

Disciples: Teacher, the last time You were there, some Jews attempted to execute You by crushing You with stones. Why would You go back?

Jesus: There are 12 hours of daylight, correct? If anyone walks in the day, that person does not stumble because he or she sees the light of the world. If anyone walks at night, he will trip and fall because he does not have the light within. (Jesus briefly pauses.) Our friend Lazarus has gone to sleep, so I will go to awaken him.

Disciples: Lord, if he is sleeping, then he will be all right.

Jesus used “sleep” as a *metaphor* for death, but the disciples took Him literally *and did not understand*. Then Jesus spoke plainly.

Jesus: Lazarus is dead, and I am grateful for your sakes that I was not there when he died. Now you will *see and believe*. Gather yourselves, and let’s go to him.

Thomas, the Twin (*to the disciples*): Let’s go so we can die with Him.

As Jesus was approaching Bethany (which is about two miles east of Jerusalem), He heard that Lazarus had been in the tomb four days. Now many people had come to comfort Mary and Martha as they mourned the loss of their brother. Martha went to meet Jesus when word arrived that He was approaching Bethany, but Mary stayed behind at the house. Martha said:

Martha: Lord, if You had been with us, my brother would not have died. Even so I still believe that anything You ask of God will be done.

Jesus: Your brother will rise to life.

Martha: I know. He will rise again when everyone is resurrected on the last day.

Jesus: I am the resurrection and the source of all life; those who believe in Me will live even in death. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never truly die. Do you believe this?

Martha: Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Anointed, *the Liberating King*, God’s own Son who *we have heard* is coming into the world.

After this Martha ran home to Mary.

Martha (*whispering to Mary*): Come with me. The Teacher is here, and He has asked for you.

Mary did not waste a minute. She got up and went to the same spot where Martha had found Jesus outside the village. The people gathered in her home offering support and comfort assumed she was going back to the tomb to cry and mourn, so they followed her. Mary approached Jesus, saw Him, and fell at His feet.

Mary: Lord, if only You had been here, my brother would still be alive.

When Jesus saw Mary’s *profound grief and the moaning and weeping* of her companions, He was deeply moved *by their pain* in His spirit and was intensely troubled.

Jesus: Where have you laid his body?

Jews: Come and see, Lord.

*As they walked*, Jesus wept; and everyone noticed how much Jesus must have loved Lazarus. But others were skeptical.

Others: If this man can give sight to the blind, He could have kept him from dying.

Then Jesus, who was intensely troubled by all of this, approached the tomb—a *small cave* covered by a *massive stone*.

Jesus: Remove the stone.

Martha: Lord, he has been dead four days; the stench will be unbearable.

Jesus: Remember, I told you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God.

They removed the stone, and Jesus lifted His eyes toward heaven.

Jesus: Father, I am grateful that You have heard Me. I know that You are always listening, but I proclaim it loudly so that everyone here will believe You have sent Me.

After these words, He called out in a thunderous voice.

Jesus: Lazarus, come out!

Then, the man who was dead walked out of his tomb bound head to toe in strips of linen.

Jesus: Unbind him, and allow him to go.

As a result, many of the Jews who had come with Mary saw what happened and believed in Him.

**Sermon** "Can these bones live?"

**Quiet Meditation**

**Song** #286, *Spirit of Gentleness*, vs. 1-3 (music at end)

**Prayers of the People**

**Sung Response** O Lord, Hear Our Prayer

The image shows a musical score for a song in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The bass staff has a bass line with notes G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: Em, G/D, Am/C, D, Em, C, B7. The lyrics are: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. O". The second system starts at measure 5. The treble staff has a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The bass staff has a bass line with notes G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: Em, G/D, Am/C, D, Em, B7, Em. The lyrics are: "Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O". The word "Last Time" is written above the final notes in both staves.

**Time, Talent and Treasure**

**Online:** 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; a donation link will come back to you. Your support for Alki is more important now than ever as Alki UCC seeks to be a prophetic voice for all people in the year ahead.

**Announcements** (please post announcements in the Zoom chat)

## Offering Invitation

## Musical Offering

### Doxology

#778

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.

## Prayer of Dedication

### Closing Song

#546, *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

(music at end)

## Benediction

## Hospitality Hour



**Note:** Many of the music selections you'll hear at Alki UCC during Lent are Taizé (pronounced: tay-zay), a prayerful form of music known for its simple, yet rich and meditative character. Taizé music comes from the Taizé Community, a French ecumenical religious community founded in 1940.



Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

Order of Worship Subject to Change;

Music Covered by One License.net #A-7 10529

Portions of today's service are recorded for posting on Alki UCC's YouTube channel.

Cover image: "Unbind Him by Hannah Garrity

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### **Alki United Church of Christ (Alki UCC)**

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# Spirit of the Living God

283

Daniel Iverson, 1926

Acts 11:15; 2 Cor. 3:1-6; Gal. 5:25

F Gm D Gm F Dm C F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

F Gm D Gm F B $\flat$ /C C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

B $\flat$  F G7 C

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

F Gm D Gm F Dm C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Presbyterian minister Daniel Iverson was inspired to write this chorus one evening while attending revival services led by the George T. Stephans Evangelistic Party in Orlando, Florida, in 1926. It became widely popular at similar meetings before it was published several years later.

Tune: IVERSON 7.5.7.5.8.7.5.  
Daniel Iverson, 1926

# Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

*Unison, brightly*  
*Refrain*

*James K. Manley, 1978; alt.*

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the

Bm E7 Asus7 A7

wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from

Bm G A7 D G D *Last time, end*

plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

D G A G

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the  
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the  
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a  
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

*\*Reduced-size notes may be played with organ pedals in lieu of or in combination with the other notes.*

HYMNS OF THE SPIRIT

D A7 D Bm

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the  
 sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a  
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the  
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

E7 Asus7 A7 D G A

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you  
 law and a land; When they were con - found - ed by their  
 whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you  
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D A7 D Bm

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -  
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -  
 called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -  
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

G A7 D G D A7 to Refrain

bers and rise on your wings."  
 ets to o - pen their eyes.  
 ple on the rush of the wind.  
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

*This popular hymn by songwriter James K. Manley grew out of a sabbatical leave at the School of Theology at Claremont, California. It was first sung at Waikeola Congregational Church in Honolulu, after which Manley added the fourth stanza at the suggestion of a church member.*

Tune: SPIRIT Irr.  
 James K. Manley, 1978  
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1993



## Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to your bos - om fly,  
 2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; in your hands, my des - ti - ny;  
 3 Plen-teous grace in you is found, grace to cov - er all my sin;

While the near - er wa - ters roll, while the tem - pest still is high;  
 Leave, O leave me not a - lone, still sup - port and com - fort me.  
 Let the heal - ing streams a - bound, make and keep me pure with - in.

Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past;  
 All my trust on you is stayed, all my help from you I bring;  
 Fount of life, your love im - part, fill my cup a - bun - dant - ly;

Safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last!  
 Cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of your wing.  
 Spring up now with - in my heart, rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn soon after his 1738 conversion and titled it "In Temptation." Once considered so intimate that it was omitted from many eighteenth-century hymnals, it is presently found in many languages in collections around the world.

Tune: MARTYN 7.7.7.7.D.  
 Simeon B. Marsh, 1834  
 Alternate tune: ABERYSTWYTH