



ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 17, 2023

Order of Service for the Worship of God Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*“I wondered if that was how forgiveness budded;
not with the fanfare of epiphany, but with pain gathering its things,
packing up, and slipping away unannounced
in the middle of the night.”*

— Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*

Gathering Music Stephen Anthony Rawson, Music Director

Welcome Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel

Sung Response

Holy Ground Geron Davis

We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in God's presence on holy ground

Call to Worship

Inspired by Psalm 103 Brett T-L, Liturgist

Bless the Holy One with our whole selves. Praise the Maker of our being!

Remember the mighty deeds and the good works of our God.

The Sovereign One endows us with many gifts and equips us to do good work.

Remember the mighty deeds and the good works of our God.

Holy Love entered the world without condemnation

but with grace and forgiveness, mercy and compassion, redemption and restoration.

Hallelujah! We give thanks for the mighty deeds and the good works of our God!

Opening Song

Enter My Heart, v 1,2,3 James F.D. Martin (music at end)

Prayer for Transformation

Words of Grace

Scripture Readings Psalm 103: 8-13

Re-imagined by Nan C. Merrill in “Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness”

You are merciful and gracious, quelling our anger with your patient Love. You love us more than we can ask or imagine; in truth, we belong to You. For You understand us, requiring us not according to our ignorance and error.

As far as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your loving response toward those who are humble; So far does your enduring strength uphold those who face the darkness within. As parents are concerned for their children, so You come to those who reach out in faith. For our ways are known, our weakness seen with compassion.

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’

But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’

And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Sermon “The Beginning of Letting Go”

Quiet Meditation

Song #569, *Touch the Earth Lightly* (music at end)

Commissioning Stephen Anthony Rawson as Music Director of Alki UCC

Do you receive Stephen as your sibling in Christ?

We do.

Will you encourage him as he accepts this responsibility of music leadership in our common life together?

We will.

Will you support Stephen, honor his leadership, and partner with him, that he might serve with joy?

We will, with God's help!

Prayers of the People

Time, Talent and Treasure

Announcements *Please post announcements in Zoom chat.*

Offering Invitation

Online: 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; a donation link will come back to you. Your support for Alki is more important now than ever.

Musical Offering

Doxology

Tune: *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Song

Let It Shine, v2, 3

Barbara Hamm

(music at end)

Benediction

Sending Music



Welcome to Alki UCC's New Music Director, Stephen Anthony Rawson

Stephen is a Seattle-based pianist, composer, and music teacher. He started taking lessons at age 5, and grew up playing in the praise band at his hometown church, Zion Lutheran. He studied music composition at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire and at the University of Oregon. Stephen enjoys being involved in many different musical styles and settings, from classical and jazz to gospel and contemporary music.

Stephen joined the worship team at Friendship United Methodist Church in Bolingbrook, IL in 2021. As music director and accompanist, he led the chancel choir, men's and women's ensembles, and praise band in weekly rehearsals. In the community, he helped plan and perform music for holiday concerts and public picnics, and worked to introduce the "Spirituals" project; an ongoing special offering that provides financial assistance for music education to African American children in Bolingbrook, which is collected each time a spiritual is sung.

In 2019, he began working with Jennifer Hudson as her piano coach and music assistant. He helped prepare her for the role of Aretha Franklin in the MGM biopic *Respect* (2021), and for televised performances at the BET Awards and *The Late Show*. Stephen was also the music director of the Musical Theater Ensemble at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago.

Here in Seattle, he teaches piano and co-hosts the music podcast *Relevant Tones*.



Forgiveness: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay,
Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

Photo by [Gianandrea Villa](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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.

Alki United Church of Christ (Alki UCC)

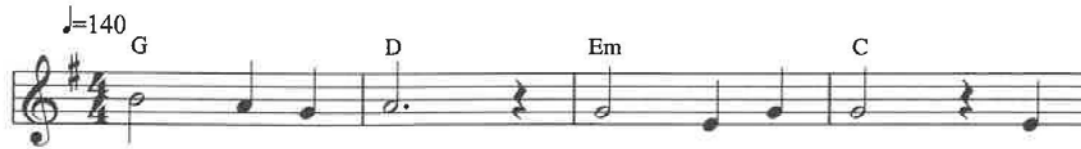
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GATHER

39

Enter My Heart



1. En - ter my heart, en - ter my heart, O
 2. En - ter my mind, en - ter my mind, O
 3. En - ter my life, en - ter my life, O



Spir - it of pow'r and love. May I pro -
 Spir - it of pow'r and love. In me in -
 Spir - it of pow'r and love. May I ful -



- claim your ho - ly name. O
 - crease your ho - ly peace. O
 - fill your ho - ly will. O



Spir - it, en - ter my heart. _____
 Spir - it, en - ter my mind. _____
 Spir - it, en - ter my life. _____

As an alternative:

"Enter our hearts . . . may we proclaim . . ."

"Enter our minds . . . in us increase . . ."

"Enter our lives . . . may we fulfill . . ."

Touch the Earth Lightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

Unison
Brightly

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 * 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Shirley Erena Murray's notes on this hymn state that the title line is borrowed from an Australian Aboriginal saying. The "clouds of disaster" mentioned in stanza 2 refer to nuclear testing by France, which New Zealand has protested at the United Nations many times.

Tune: TENDERNESS 5.5.10.D.
 Colin Gibson, 1992

Let It Shine

196

$\text{♩} = 100$

Let it shine, let it shine, the light of the world that

shows the way; let it shine, let it shine, and show us peace to-day. —

1. The church bears witness to God's grace, its
 2. When love replaces human greed, a
 3. Now let us give ourselves to God with -

mis - sion crys - tal clear: to show the world God's
 last - ing peace will come as hands reach out to
 -in this war - torn world, and work till jus - tice

hu - man face, a world that God holds dear.
 hu - man need from hearts no long - er numb.
 walks a - broad with flags of peace un - furled.