



ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 3, 2023

Order of Service

for the Worship of God

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

We Acknowledge our Weariness

Gathering Music

Invention in E major

J. S. Bach

Prelude

My Hope Is Built

Edward Mote and William B. Bradbury

Anthem

Unzima (Our Burden is Heavy)

South African traditional (arr. John Bell)

Alki UCC Choir

Unzima lomthwalo. Unzima lomthwalo.

Unzima lomthwalo. Ufuna bafari.

Our burden is heavy, we need help to bear it.

Who will lift our heavy load? Who will share our sorrow?

Candle Lighting

Chad and Maya K

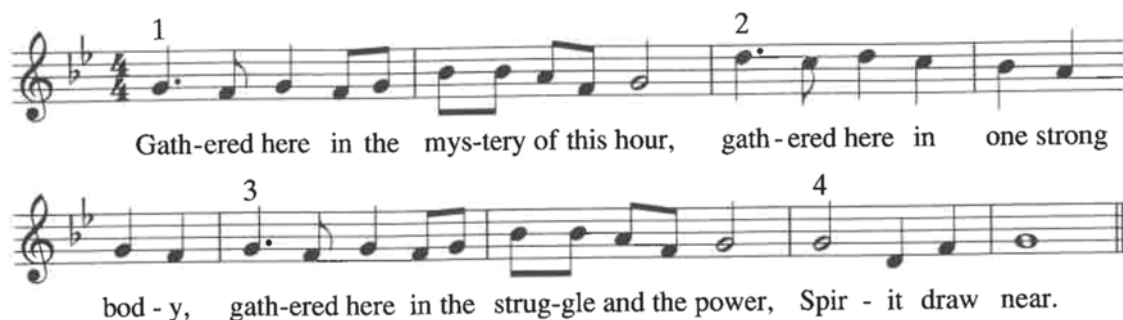
Welcome

Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel

Centering Song

#742, *Gathered Here in the Mystery*

Phil Porter



Call to Worship

Brett & Day T-L, Liturgists

(responsive)

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious, and everything in between.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

Opening Song

We Bring You All Our Sorrows

Paul Zach and Kate Bluett

(sung to #332 As We Gather at Your Table)

God, we bring You all our sorrows,
All the words it hurts to say.
In Your hands our grief is hallowed;
Take it as our gift, we pray.
Lay our tears upon Your altar
Like the bread You bless and break.
Work Your mercy in our heartache;
Come transfigure all our pain.

Christ, You came to share our burdens;
All our human pain, You feel.
Walk beside us on our journey
through the wounds that never heal.
Place the yoke upon our shoulders
that You Bore to Calvary.
Let the weight of grief transform us;
Bear with us our suffering.

There on Calv'ry's hill You'll meet us In the pain You know, so well.
Bread of heaven, here You feed us with a gift no tongue can tell.
You said You would never leave us, You who caught us when we fell;
Stay with us, O loving Jesus, while in shadows here we dwell.

Prayer for Transformation

Words of Grace

Scripture

Luke 1:1-23

NRSV

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I, too, decided, as one having a grasp of everything from the start, to write a well-ordered account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may have a firm grasp of the words in which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because they had not conceived and were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Sermon

"The Problem of Certainty"

Quiet Meditation

Song #101 *Comfort, Comfort O My People* Johannes Olearius

Prayers of the People

Testimony of Faith (unison)

We believe in a God who hears our prayers,
who knows the shape and form of our weariness.
We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us,
not just survival and existence.
We believe in a God who looks ahead,
who is not done dreaming for the world—
a God who sends hope in the form of people and change,
movements and Spirit.
And so we return to this space.
We bring our joy and our weariness
like two sides of the same coin,
and we trust that God is already at work.
Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.
Amen.

Time, Talent and Treasure

Announcements Please post announcements in Zoom chat.

Ministry Team Moment Building and Grounds

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 than ever.

Musical Offering I Wonder As I Wander Appalachian Folk Carol John Jacob Niles
Alki UCC Choir

Doxology #27, *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!

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

Communion Song #332 *As We Gather at Your Table* Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Song #347 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* Jamaican folk song, Fred Kaan

Benediction

Sung Benediction #107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn, v 2 Marty Haugen

To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
Whose humble song is quiet and near,
Yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul
And hymns of loving kindness,
The thunder of the anthems roll
To shatter all hate and injustice.

Sending Music *Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)* We the Kingdom

###



Service liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed,
A Sanctified Art LLC, Sanctified Art.org
Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ
Image: "Annunciation to Zechariah"
by Lauren Wright Pittman

Order of Worship Subject to Change;
Music Covered by One License.net #A-7 10529
Image: "Annunciation to Zechariah" by Lauren Wright Pittman
Portions of today's service are recorded for posting
on Alki UCC's YouTube channel.

Alki United Church of Christ (Alki UCC)
6115 SW Hinds ❖ Seattle WA 98116
206/935-2661 alkiucc.org

We Bring You All Our Sorrows

Tune: As We Gather at Your Table

Paul Zach and Kate Bluett

F C F B \flat F/A B \flat C B \flat B \flat /D

1. God we bring You all our sor - rows, All the words it hurts to
 2. Christ, You came to share our bur - dens; All our hu - man pain, You
 3. There on Calv' - ry's hill You'll meet us in the pain You know so

4 F F C F B \flat F/A B \flat C B \flat

say. In Your hands our grief is hal - lowed; Take it as our gift, we
 feel. Walk be - side us on our jour - ney Through the wounds that ne - ver
 well. Bread of hea - ven, here You feed us with a gift no tongue can


8 F F Dm C/E C B \flat C Dm Dm/F Am Dm Dm/C

pray. Lay our tears u - pon Your al - tar Like the bread You bless and
 heal. Place the yoke u - pon our shoul - ders That Your Bore to Cal - va -
 tell. You said You would nev - er leave us, You who caught us when we



12 B \flat B \flat C F Am B \flat Dm Gm Am B \flat F

break. Work Your mer - cy in our heart - ache; Come trans - fig - ure all our pain.
 ry. Let the weight of grief trans - form us; Bear with us our suf - fer - ing.
 fell; Stay with us, O lov - ing Je - sus, While in sha - dows here we dwell.



Comfort, Comfort O My People

*Isa. 40:1-8**Johannes Olearius, 1671
Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.*


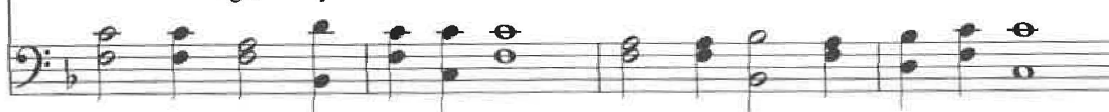

1 "Com - fort, com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!


Com-fort those whose hearts are shroud-ed, mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
Bid-ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes-si - ah's ho - ly reign.

Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
For God's glo - ry ev - er-more shall be known o'er all the world;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.
Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.



Written for John the Baptist's Day, June 24, this hymn clearly reflects the Isaiah text. Johannes Olearius, a Lutheran pastor, held a faculty appointment at Wittenberg University as well as church administration positions in his region.

Tune: PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
(FREU DICH SEHR)
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

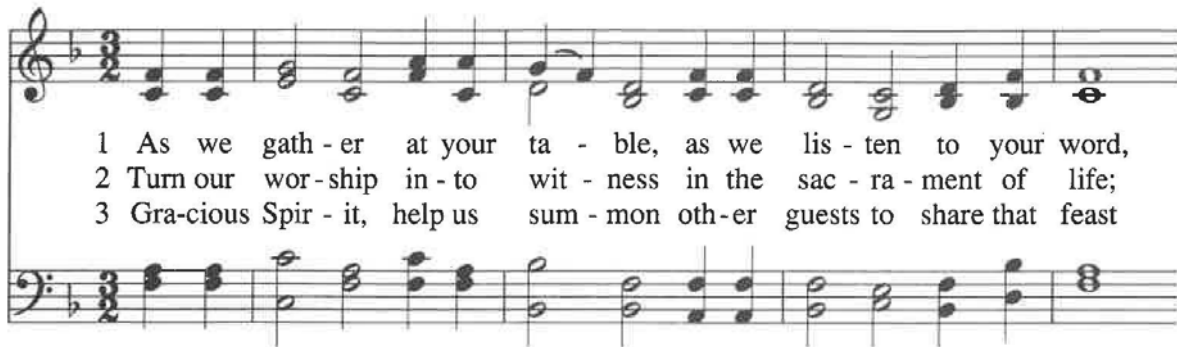
HOLY COMMUNION

332

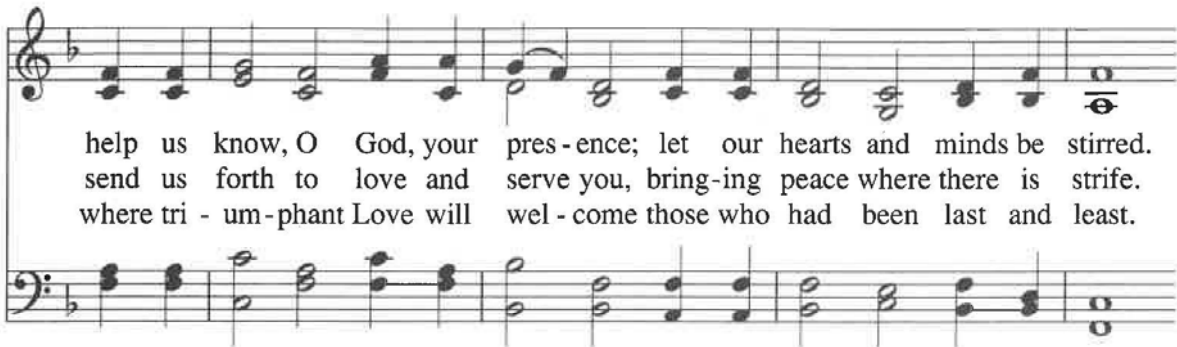
As We Gather at Your Table

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

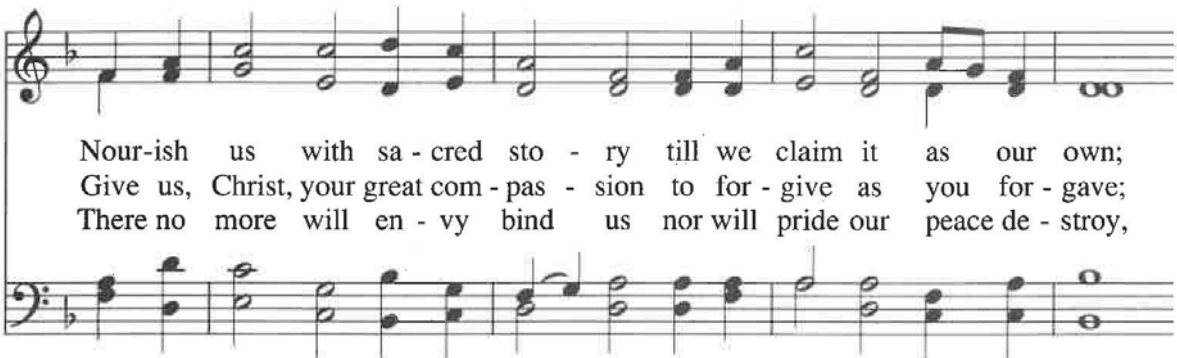
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989



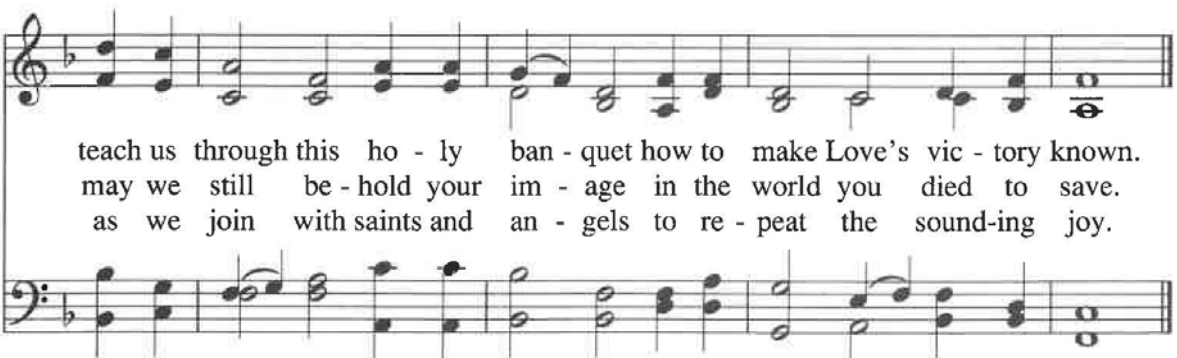
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

HOLY COMMUNION

347

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

*Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5**Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993*

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

Liturgical composer Marty Haugen wrote both words and music for this Advent hymn with the twofold aim of providing an easy congregational chorale and utilizing the images of the Isaiah passages.

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9.
Marty Haugen, 1983

ADVENT

D D/F# G D Em Am D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
 One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in
 Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and

Am7 D7 G 1-3 G/B C 4 G/B C G

lives now in-side us for ev - er. . . .
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .
 weap-ons are bro-ken a - sun - der. . . .
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry. . . .

1-3 4