



## ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 21, 2024

Order of Service  
for the Worship of God

**POETRY SUNDAY**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- Gathering Music** Stephen Anthony Rawson, Music Director
- Prelude** *De Colores* Mexican Folk Song
- Welcome and Land Acknowledgment** Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel
- Centering Song** #31, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* All music at end
- Call to Worship** Marilyn M, Liturgist (responsive)  
Scripture tells us that “creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed.”  
**Creation is waiting for us.**  
To open our eyes to the devastation in our world.  
**Creation is waiting for us.**  
To put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful.  
**Creation is waiting for us.**  
To move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right.  
**Creation is waiting for us.**  
To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self.  
**Creation is waiting for us.**  
To remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts.  
**Creation is waiting for us.**  
In all these things and more, creation waits for us to assume our roles as its servants and protectors.  
**With God’s help, we will answer creation’s call. Amen.**
- Opening Song** #28, *For the Beauty of the Earth*
- Prayer for Transformation and Words of Grace**
- Scripture** Re-imagining of Psalm 32  
Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson  
UCC General Minister and President in *Living Psalms Book*  
Happy are the people of God who are connected to the earth and who have repented of the sin of environmental injustices.  
Happy are those who center Creator and the created, in whose spirit there is no duplicity in caring for the earth.

While I kept silent, the earth wasted away,  
groaning from the weight of polluted skies  
and unclean waters all day long.  
Night and day creation groaned,  
the earth heating up,  
ice caps melting, seas rising,  
homes and lives washing away.  
Then I acknowledged the sins committed against the earth,  
I did not hide my complicity;  
I said, "I will confess the deforestation of the earth,  
the extinction of species,  
the oceans we abused."  
Let all who are faithful offer prayers for the earth at the time of distress,  
the rush of mighty waters coming  
with the heavy rains devastating the earth  
taking away the mountain sides.  
The earth is a refuge for me, healing me and keeping me from trouble,  
surrounding me with the glad cries of the birds  
and the whispers of the trees.  
I will instruct the masses, and teach of the way of creation justice,  
I will bring wise counsel to defending the earth.  
Do not be stubborn, without understanding  
of the ways in which untempered use of resources  
must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else the beauty of the earth will not stay near you.  
Many are the sufferings of the earth,  
but steadfast love surrounds those  
who trust in the Creator and care for all creation.  
Be glad in the Creator and rejoice for the healing of the earth, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you who seek justice for creation.

## Poetry

## Quiet Meditation

## Song

*#569, Touch the Earth Lightly*

## Prayers of the People

### Prayer of Jesus

Open Door Community

(unison)

**Our Beloved Friend, outside the Domination System, may your Holy Name be honored by the way we live our lives. Your Beloved Community, come. Your way be done, inside the System as it is outside the System. Give us this day everything we need. Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who have wronged us. Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One. For Thine is: the Beloved Community, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Time, Talent and Treasure

### Mission Updates

**Offering Invitation 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 than ever.

**Musical Offering**     *What a Wonderful World*     George David Weiss and Bob Thiele

**Doxology**     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 There Be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth,  
And let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth,  
The peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator,  
Children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other  
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me;  
Let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take,  
Let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment  
And live each moment  
In peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
And let it begin with me.

### **Benediction**

**Sung Benediction**     *Let There Be Peace on Earth* (reprise)

Let peace begin with me;  
Let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take,  
Let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment  
And live each moment  
In peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
And let it begin with me.

### **Sending Music**

# All Things Bright and Beautiful

31

*Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.*

*Unison  
Refrain*

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

All things wise and won - der - ful, our dear God made them all. *Last time, end*

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,

God made their glow-ing col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.  
The sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.  
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one. *to Refrain*

*This hymn for children is based on the first article of the Apostles' Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth." The English hymnwriter Cecil Frances Alexander was married to William Alexander, who became bishop of Ireland.*

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain  
English melody  
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

## For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, *Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.*St. 4, *Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.



Liturgy from *Plastic Jesus: Real Faith in a Synthetic World*  
 by Creation Justice Ministries.

Order of Worship Subject to Change

Photo by Trust Tru Katsande on Unsplash

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

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

**Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel, Pastor**

**Stephen Anthony Rawson, Music Director**

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## Touch the Earth Lightly

Unison  
Brightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

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.

# What a Wonderful World

George David Weiss and Bob Thiele

F Am B $\flat$  Am Gm7 F A7 Dm  
I see trees of green, red ros-es too, I see them bloom for me and you, and I

5 D $\flat$  Gm7/C C7 F F+ B $\flat$ M7 C7 F Am  
think to my-self what a won-der-ful world. I see skies of blue and

10 B $\flat$  Am Gm7 F A7 Dm D $\flat$   
clouds of white the bright bles-sed day, the dark sac-red night, and I think to my-self

14 Gm7/C C7 F B $\flat$  F C7 F  
what a won-der-ful world. The col-ors of the rain-bow, so pret-ty in the sky are

19 C7 F Dm C/E Dm/F C/G  
al-so on the fa-ces of peo-ple go-in' by. I see friends shak-in' hands say-in', "How do you do!"

23 Dm/F F $\sharp$ dim Gm7 F $\sharp$ dim C7 F Am B $\flat$  Am  
They're real-ly say-in', "I love you." I hear ba - bies cry, I watch them grow.

27 Gm7 F A7 Dm D $\flat$  Gm7/C C7  
They'll learn much more than I'll e-verknow. And I think to my-self what a won-der-ful

31 F Am7 $\flat$ 5 D7 Gm7 Gm7 C7 $\flat$ 9 F B $\flat$ 6 F  
world. Yes, I think to my-self what a won-der-ful world.