



## ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 19, 2026  
Order of Service  
for the Worship of God

### Third Sunday of Easter Earth Day Poetry Sunday

Vicky S, Worship Leader  
Ann P, Julia C, Marilynn M Liturgists

Gathering Music

Daniel Self, Music Director

Prelude

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Centering Song

We are standing on holy ground  
And I know that there are angels all around  
Let us praise Jesus now  
We are standing in his presence on holy ground

Call to Worship

*From Psalm 104, Reimagined* (responsive)

Woe to you ecosystem destroyers and mass polluters!

**Woe to you warmongers and resource hoarders!**

You spin hurricanes of despair,

**you flood the earth with suffering!**

How are you so removed

**from your own fragile creatureliness**

that you fail to fathom it could be you—

**scrambling up a tree, onto a rooftop, up a mountainside—**

to keep above the waters of loss?

**You do not deserve to sleep at night!**

May the cries of sorrow you've created haunt your dreams

**until you run, repenting, from your wicked ways.**

Come, God of Righteous Rage!

**Lay low the evildoers**

restore your lands and refresh your precious creatures.

Opening Song

*Pray for the Wilderness* NCH 557

Prayer for Transformation

Special Music

*Earth Song*

Frank Ticheli

Alki UCC Community Choir

*Sing, be, live, see*

*This dark stormy hour*

*The wind, it stirs*

*The scorched Earth cries out in vain*

*Oh war and power, you blind and blur*

*The torn heart cries out in pain*

*But music and singing have been my refuge*

*And music and singing shall be my light*

*A light of song, shining strong  
Hallelujah, hallelujah*

*Through darkness and pain and strife  
I'll sing, I'll be, live, see  
Peace*

**Scripture**

Psalm 104, *New Revised Standard Version*, updated edition

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
wrapped in light as with a garment.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent;  
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters;  
you make the clouds your chariot;  
you ride on the wings of the wind;  
you make the winds your messengers,  
fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.  
You cover it with the deep as with a garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.  
At your rebuke they flee;  
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.  
They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys,  
to the place that you appointed for them.  
You set a boundary that they may not pass,  
so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills,  
giving drink to every wild animal;  
the wild asses quench their thirst.  
By the streams[e] the birds of the air have their habitation;  
they sing among the branches.  
From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle  
and plants for people to cultivate,  
to bring forth food from the earth  
and wine to gladden the human heart,  
oil to make the face shine  
and bread to strengthen the human heart.  
The trees of the field[f] are watered abundantly,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.  
In them the birds build their nests;  
the stork has its home in the fir trees.  
The high mountains are for the wild goats;  
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons;  
the sun knows its time for setting.  
You make darkness, and it is night,  
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.  
The young lions roar for their prey,  
seeking their food from God.  
When the sun rises, they withdraw  
and lie down in their dens.  
People go out to their work  
and to their labor until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
There is the sea, great and wide;  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.  
There go the ships  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;  
when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.  
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.  
When you send forth your spirit,[g] they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works—  
who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke.  
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the Lord.  
Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
Praise the Lord!

**Earth Poetry**

Members of the Congregation

**Quiet Meditation**

## Song

*Word that Blesses, Breaks and Shares Us*

Words: Amanda Udis-Kessler (set to the tune Beecher)

### Verse 1

Word that blesses, breaks and shares us, word of truth that speaks our lives,  
In your wisdom, we grow wiser. In your nurture we can thrive.  
In your wonder we find freedom. We find hope in your demands.  
Help us live your gospel message, heart and soul and mind and hands.

### Verse 2

Every tale has gifts to offer. Every promise makes a claim.  
Touched by joy, enjoined to wrestle, every verse calls out our names.  
Every song of celebration, every act of fear and sin  
Calls us now to join the story, asks us now to enter in.

### Verse 3

As we're blessed we then are broken, all assumptions torn in two,  
Humbled by the wondrous oddness of a story strange and true,  
Severed from our resignation, emptied of complacency.  
We become a new creation, stunned and pained and glad and free.

### Verse 4

We are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, tend the poor.  
We are offered in compassion to create a world restored.  
So empowered, we empower; so redeemed, we then redeem,  
Servants of the holy Kin-dom, faithful stewards of God's dream.

### Verse 5

We are spoken into being by the truth the story tells  
As we live into God's promise of a world made whole and well,  
We are vessels of God's wisdom. We are bearers of God's grace,  
Once created, now creating beauty in our time and place.

### Verse 6

Word that blesses, breaks and shares us, we give thanks for all you are:  
Holy plumbline, sacred wellspring, great adventure, guiding star.  
May we struggle, may we ponder, may we sing a song of praise.  
May you draw us ever closer to the maker of our days.

## Prayers of the People

### Time, Talent & Treasure

#### Mission Updates

#### Offering Invitation

**Online:** Please donate generously through [alkiucc.org](http://alkiucc.org), through a mailed donation to the church office or via the QR Code on a following page.

#### Offertory

**Doxology** *Lasst Uns Erfreuen* (music next page)

#### Prayer of Dedication

**Closing Song**

*What a Wonderful World*

Bob Thiele and George David Weiss

I see trees of green  
Red roses too  
I see them bloom  
For me and you  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world

I see skies of blue  
And clouds of white  
The bright blessed day  
The dark sacred night  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow  
So pretty in the sky  
Are also on the faces  
Of people going by  
I see friends shaking hands  
Saying, "How do you do?"  
They're really saying  
I love you

I hear babies cry  
I watch them grow  
They'll learn much more  
Than I'll ever know  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world  
Yes, I think to myself  
What a wonderful world  
Ooh, yes

**Benediction  
Postlude**

**Doxology – LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

Thomas Ken, 1709 Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623

Prasie God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures here be - low; Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise God for all that love has done; Cre - a - tor Christ and spi - rit  
one: We praise thee, We praise thee, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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Order of Worship subject to change  
Liturgy adapted from A Sanctified Art  
Order of Worship Subject to Change  
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