



ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 26, 2026
Order of Service
for the Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Tiare Mathison, Worship Leader/Guest Preacher
Rev. Penny Matthews, Liturgist

Gathering Music

Daniel Self, Music Director

Prelude

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Rev. Tiare Mathison

Centering Song

Pray for the Wilderness Lee Yu San (all music at end)

Call to Worship

Rev. Penny M, Liturgist Psalm 27, "The Message," Eugene Petersen (adapted)

Light, space, zest— that's GOD!

So, with God on our side we are fearless,
afraid of no one and nothing.

We trust to see God in the land of the Living.

When besieged, we are calm as babies in the nursery.

When all hell breaks loose, we are collected and cool.

We trust to see God in the land of the Living.

We ask GOD for one thing, only one thing:

To live with God in Her house our whole life long.

We will contemplate Her beauty, study at Her feet.

We trust to see God in the land of the Living.

We are headed for His place to offer anthems
that will raise the roof!

Already we are singing God-songs;

We are making music to GOD.

We see God in this sanctuary, in the land of the Living

Opening Song

In Egypt Under Pharaoh NCH 574 (to the tune of Lancashire)

Prayer for Transformation

Special Music

Scriptures

Exodus 7:8-23

New Revised Standard Version, updated edition

Exodus 13:17-22;

John 13:31-35; 14:25-27

Exodus 7:8-23

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a wonder,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, and it will become a snake.'" So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did as the Lord had commanded; Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake.

Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same by their secret arts. Each one threw down his staff, and they became snakes, but Aaron's staff swallowed up theirs. However, Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

The First Plague: Water Turned to Blood

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water; stand by at the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that was turned into a snake. Say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you to say, "Let my people go, so that they may serve me in the wilderness." But until now you have not listened. Thus says the Lord, "By this you shall know that I am the Lord." See, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall be turned to blood. The fish in the river shall die, the river itself shall stink, and the Egyptians shall be unable to drink water from the Nile.' " The Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron: Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over its rivers, its canals, and its ponds, and all its pools of water—so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout the whole land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone."

Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and of his officials he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile; all the water in the river was turned into blood, and the fish in the river died. The river stank so that the Egyptians could not drink its water, and there was blood throughout the whole land of Egypt. But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts; so Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart.

Exodus 13:17-22

The Pillars of Cloud and Fire

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer, for God thought, "If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness bordering the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph, who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, "God will surely come to you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here." They set out from Succoth and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

John 13:31-35; 14:25-27

The New Commandment

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Sermon UNRAVELED:
Death to Life, Emaciated to Emancipation, Bondage to Justice, Despair to Hope

Quiet Meditation

Song *Amazing Grace* NCH 547

Prayers of the People

Time, Talent & Treasure

Mission Updates

Offering Invitation

Online: Please donate generously through *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 *O for a World* NCH 575

Benediction

Postlude

**Support the many ministries of
Alki UCC with a secure donation
via the QR code at right.**



Order of Worship subject to change
Liturgy adapted from A Sanctified Art
Order of Worship Subject to Change
Music Covered by One License.net #A-7 10529
Image: Mohamed Nohassi on Unsplash
Portions of the service are recorded
for posting on YouTube

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Pray for the Wilderness

WILDERNESS

Work for the jus - tice cre - at - ed things need,
Trust that God's Christ o - ver - came nails and wood,
work for the health of each plant and it's seed;
trust that the earth's peo - ple will turn to the good;
Work for the crea - tures a - buse has be - trayed,
Trust that cre - a - tion for - ev - er wil grow,
— work for the gar - den God's wis - dom once made.
Trust that God's good - ness to us o - ver flows.

Doxology – LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Thomas Ken, 1709

Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623

Praise 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!