



**Welcome to Worship**  
**Sunday, February 7, 2020 — 8:00 a.m.**  
*Making Disciples Who Make a Difference  
in Seward and Beyond*



**Words of Welcome and Announcements:**

*See announcement flyer.*



**Prelude**

**Megan Forbes**

**Peace of Christ Blessing**

**Call to Worship**

- L: Come in from the cold of winter to the warmth of worship.
- P: We come that our hearts may be warmed by God's word.**
- L: Come in from the weariness of a difficult season to the reassurance of worship.
- P: We come that our hope may be renewed.**
- L: Come in from the loneliness of a pandemic to the virtual and in person gathering of this congregation.
- P: We come to feel a new connection with one another and with God.**
- L: Come! Worship! Be renewed.

What gift can we bring; what present, what token?  
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?  
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,  
what song can we offer in honor and praise?

Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,  
who planted and watered so dreams could come true.  
Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,  
for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.

Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,  
for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring,  
the Word is our promise always, forever;  
we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.

This gift we now bring, this present, this token,  
these words convey it, the joy of this day!  
When grateful we come, remembered, rejoicing,  
this song we now offer in honor and praise!

**Our Common Prayer**

Sometimes, God, in the heaviness of winter days, the anxiety of pandemic days, our hope grows dim. Remind us that you are the God of new life and new possibilities. Remind us that spring always follows winter. Remind us that you have a vision for this congregation. Let possibility sprout within us. Let hope grow strong. In Jesus name, Amen.

**Children's Time****Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm****Scripture Lesson - Romans 8:18-25**

"I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

## Jeremiah 32: 1-15

"The word that came to Jeremiah from God in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him. Zedekiah had said, 'Why do you prophesy and say: Thus says God: I am going to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it; King Zedekiah of Judah shall not escape out of the hands of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be given into the hands of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him face to face and see him eye to eye; and he shall take Zedekiah to Babylon, and there he shall remain until I attend to him, says God; though you fight against the Chaldeans, you shall not succeed?'

Jeremiah said, 'The word of God came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of God, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of God.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on the scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, "Thus says the ruler of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the ruler of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.'"

### Hymn

### In Unity We Lift Our Song

TFWS 2221

<sup>1</sup> In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration,  
for brothers brave and sisters strong.  
What cause for celebration!  
For those whose faithfulness  
has kept us through distress,  
who've shared with us our plight,  
who've held us in the night,  
the blessed congregation.

<sup>2</sup> For stories told and told again to every generation,  
to give us strength in times of pain,  
to give us consolation.  
Our spirits to revive  
to keep our dreams alive,  
when we are far from home  
and evil seasons come;  
how firm is our foundation.

<sup>3</sup> For sacred scriptures handed down, a blessed trust and treasure  
which give us hope when hope is gone and make us weep with pleasure.  
And when our eyes grow blind and death is close behind,  
we shall recite them still whose words our hearts can fill with hope beyond all measure.

<sup>4</sup> For God our way, our bread, our rest, of all these gifts the Giver.  
Our strength, our guide, our nurturing breast whose hand will yet deliver.  
Who keeps us til the day when night shall pass away,  
when hate and fear are gone and all our work is done, and we shall sing forever.

**Message**

**Jeremiah's Hope**

**Pastor Mary Kay Totty**

**Prayer: Type in your joys/concerns or text to 402-810-8900.**

**Music for Prayer**

**Holy Ground**

**TFWS 2272**

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.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Offering**

We give generously of our time, talents, gifts, service, and witness.

*To make a gift in support of our continued ministry during the global pandemic,  
please place your offering in the box near the front door, or visit [sewardumc.org](http://sewardumc.org)  
and click on the 'donate' button.*

**Offertory**

**Megan Forbes**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Receive O God the offerings we bring with glad and generous hearts. Grant that they will be used for the ministries of this congregation as we seek to make disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond. For all that is entrusted to us, we give thanks. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Celebrant Pastors: Mary Kay Totty and Jo Ellen Axthelm

*For Holy Communion, if at home, you may use whatever simple elements you have at hand --bread, crackers, pita, juice, water, wine. If you are at in person worship please use the elements you brought from home or pick up cracker and water in the foyer.*

Prayers of the Great Thanksgiving (spoken responsively)

Our God is with you,

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts,

**We lift them up to our God.**

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is right, and a good and joyful thing, (cont.)**

**always and everywhere to give our thanks to God.**

Heaven and earth sprang from your wisdom, O God, and you made us for your company.

**We turned away, and our love failed,**

**but you remained steadfast.**

**You gave us room when we were in distress.**

And so with all your people here, and all the company of heaven, we join in an unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Everything that springs from your wisdom is blessed!**

**Hosanna in the Highest!**

You lived among us as our teacher, held us, called us friends.

**You died and live again**

**to show us death is not the end.**

You took bread.

**We remember.**

You broke it.

**We remember.**

You shared it.

**We ate. We remember.**

You took the cup.

**We remember.**

You said, "Drink".

**We remember.**

You shared it.

**We drank. We remember.**

And so today, we feast again; our bread and wine are you.

**You live among us still, whenever we remember you.**

We offer ourselves now –

**In praise and thanksgiving.**

We offer ourselves now –

**Holy and living.**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith,

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

Come Holy Spirit, on us gathered here.

**Be among us as we share these gifts of bread and wine.**

May they become for us the bread of life and the cup of grace

**that we may become Christ's love in the world.**

God-incarnate, God-Spirit, and God-Source of All Beginnings,

**All glory and honor are yours, now and forever. AMEN!**

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

### Hymn

O God Our Help in Ages Past

UMH 117

<sup>1</sup> O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

<sup>2</sup> Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;  
sufficient is thine harm alone, and our defense is sure.

<sup>3</sup> Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

<sup>4</sup> A thousand ages in thy sight, are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

<sup>5</sup> Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;  
they fly forgotten as a dream dies at the opening day.

<sup>6</sup> O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;  
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

### Benediction

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

### Postlude

Megan Forbes

### ***The People of God Go Forth to Serve***

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