



Seward United Methodist Church
January 15, 2023

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Pam McConnell

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

We live sustained by God's presence and love.

P: Thanks be to God.

L: As we mourn the wounds of God's children,

P: God weeps with us.

L: As we give thanks for brothers and sisters who have lived in faith,

P: God gives thanks with us.

L: As we struggle for justice,

P: God struggles with us.

L: As we strive for peace,

P: God strives with us.

L: As we work to build the beloved community,

P: God works with us.

L: As we offer our gifts to all,

P: God blesses us.

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

P: Sustained by God's presence and love, we worship God.

Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH 519

1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;

we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Common Prayer (in unison)

God of all races and nations, we praise you for all your faithful servants who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God. For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints, and for humble folk whose names were never in the news, but are recorded in Your book of life, we give you thanks, O God. Especially this day we thank you for Martin Luther King Jr., and for his tireless quest for a world of justice, peace, and love. Fill us with a shared vision for the Beloved Community and help us to never tire in doing our part to create the Beloved Community. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson Amos 5:18-24

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light,

¹⁹ as if someone fled from a lion

and was met by a bear

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰ Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹ [God says] I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²² Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴ But let justice roll down like water

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

I John 4: 19-21

¹⁹ We love because God first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Hymn**Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race**

Text by Ruth Duck

Diverse in culture, nation, race
We come together by your grace
God let us be a meeting ground
Where hope and healing love are found

God let us be a bridge of care
Connecting people everywhere
Help us confront all fear and hate
And lust for pow'r that separate

When chasms widen, storms arise
O Holy Spirit, make us wise
Let our resolve, like steel, be strong
To stand with those who suffer wrong

God let us be a table spread
With gifts of love and broken bread
Where all find welcome, grace attends
And enemies arise as friends

Sermon**“Justice Bound Up in Love”****Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty****Prayers of the People****Prayer Hymn****Come and Find the Quiet Center****TFWS 2128**

1 Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory
Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to offer to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you, not with our lips only, but with our whole lives, turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of all our days into a living sacrifice for you; through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

1 Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Benediction**Postlude****Pam McConnell**