



Holy Hygge Worship
Seward United Methodist Church
February 5, 2023

Introduction:

Seward UMC will have a winter worship series entitled “Holy Hygge.” Hygge (pronounced HYOO-guh) is a Danish word which means cozy contentment, comfort & well-being. Holy Hygge is the comfort and reassurance we find in faith through our relationship with God, through words of scripture, through church rituals. This series will delve into scripture texts which offer comfort. Fuzzy socks, warm sweaters, and soft blankets are all welcome at worship!

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Megan Forbes

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

L: From the chill of winter weather, we seek light and warmth.

P: From the starkness of life today, we seek comfort and reassurance.

L: The God of the cosmos is also the God of this very moment and dwells closer to us than our own breath.

P: God’s steadfast, abiding love brings comfort and light.

L: Thanks be to God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

UMH 383

1 This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

2 For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

3 Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4 Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

Common Prayer (adapted from St. Patrick)

May our days be many and our troubles be few.

May all God’s blessings descend upon us.

May peace be within us, may our hearts be strong.

May we find what we’re seeking wherever we roam.

May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us.

May the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us.
May thy Salvation, O God, be always ours this day and for evermore.
Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

3 For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born and a time to die;

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill and a time to heal;

a time to break down and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose;

a time to keep and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew;

a time to keep silent and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love and a time to hate;

a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹ God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, God has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³ moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Hymn

Hymn of Promise

UMH 707

1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Sermon

“One Season Following Another”

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Scriptural Affirmation of Faith

from the UMH 887

L: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation or distress,
or persecution or famine,
or nakedness or peril or sword?

P: No!

**In all things we are more than conquerors
through the One who loved us.**

**We are sure that neither
death nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn

In His (God's) Time

TFWS 2203

¹ In God's time, in God's time;
God makes all things beautiful in God's time.
God, please show me every day
as you're teaching me your way,
that you do just what you say
in your time.

² In your time, in your time;
you make all things beautiful in your time.
God, my life to you I bring;
may each song I have to sing
be to you a lovely thing
in your time.

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.

Responsive Communion

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant Pastors: Mary Kay Totty and JoEllen 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 follow the instructions given by the Pastor.

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,
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 OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Hymn

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

TFWS 2051

¹ "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

² I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

³ "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

⁴ If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

⁵ "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

⁶ When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

⁷ "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old,
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold."

Benediction

Postlude

Megan Forbes