



Seward United Methodist Church  
May 21, 2023

**Pre-Service Sing Along**

**UMH 89  
UMH 369  
UMH 701**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Alex Sommerfeld**

**Passing the Peace**

**Call to Worship**

L: Come, listen, hear the stories that shape our faith.

**P: We will be attentive and listen with our hearts and minds.**

L: These are the stories Jesus told, the parables that sneak up on us with layers of meaning and mystery and challenge.

**P: We will seek beyond easy answers for the deeper truths the parables teach.**

**Hymn**

**Come, Now is Time To Worship**

Verse

Come now is the time to worship  
Come now is the time to give our heart  
Come just as you are to worship  
Come just as you are before your God Come

Chorus

One day every tongue  
Will confess You are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly choose You now

Ending

Come come just as you are come come

CCLI Song # 2430948

Brian Doerksen

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**Common Prayer (in unison)**

God of Word and Breath and Life, thank you for the gift of stories that teach us who you are and who you call us to be. Remind us that the best stories are worth repeating time and again and again. Open up to us the parable we hear today. Allow it to teach us anew and strengthen our faith. In the name of Jesus, who first shared the parables. AMEN.

**Children's Time**

**Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty**

## Scripture Lesson: Luke 13:20-21

<sup>20</sup> And again Jesus said, "To what should I compare the kingdom of God? <sup>21</sup> It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

### Hymn

### Small Things Count

(Tune: SAVANNAH, "Let us Plead for Faith Alone")

#### Verse 1

Small things count so Jesus said  
Cups of water crumbs of bread  
Small things done because we're kind  
Count as big things in God's mind

#### Verse 2

Small things make the big things gro  
Yeast that bubbles in the dough  
Puffs that fill a big balloon  
Notes that make a happy tune

#### Verse 3

Every hair that's on our head  
Every sparrow Jesus said  
God takes care of counts and knows  
God loves us from top to toes

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### Sermon

### "A Little Bit Goes a Long Way"

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

### Prayers of the People

#### Prayer Hymn

#### Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

TFWS 2193

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

### Offering

Offertory

### Doxology

### Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts! Praise the Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Thank you, God, for the greatest of all gifts, the saving action of Jesus Christ in human history. Your gift inspires our generous response. We bring our offerings and renewed commitment. Help us to be faithful disciples. Amen. (from: "Fresh Winds of the Spirit" by Lavon Bayler, p. 52)

1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.  
That's how it is with God's love  
once you've experienced it; you spread his love to everyone;  
you want to pass it on.

2. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding,  
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.  
That's how it is with God's love  
once you've experienced it; you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,  
you want to pass it on.

3. I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found;  
you can depend on him, it matters not where you're bound.  
I'll shout it from the mountain top;  
I want my world to know; the Lord of love has come to me,  
I want to pass it on.

**Benediction****Postlude****Alex Sommerfeld**