



Seward United Methodist Church
Sixth Sunday of Easter, Grace Gathering
May 5, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn

“I Come with Joy”

UMH 617

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me,
his life laid down for me.

2. I come with Christians far and near
to find as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ’s communion bread,
in Christ’s communion bread.

3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known;
we see and praise him here,
we see and praise him here.

5. Together met, together bound,
we’ll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world,
we’ll live and speak his praise,
we’ll live and speak his praise.

Hymn

“For the Healing of the Nations”

UMH 428

1. For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.

3. All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life’s brief span,
may we hallow life’s brief span.

4. You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find,
earth its destiny may find.

Common Prayer (in unison)

(Source: Robert Clarendon)

Holy God, open our eyes so we may see clearly all the wonderful things you have done for us. Let us not live as if we were strangers to your commandments. Fill our hearts with such awe and love for you that nothing may persuade us to disobey you. Grant this, most gracious God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.

Time with the Children

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea."

Sermon

"It's Impossible, Until It's Not"

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Glimpses of God

Time of Congregational Prayer

Praying Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Celebration of Holy Communion

Pastor: The table is prepared, bread and cup await any and all who would partake. All are welcome at Christ's table — whoever you are, whatever your age, wherever you are from, wherever you are headed, whatever you believe, whatever you doubt, whomever you love, however you voted, first time here, two thousandth time here, you are welcome just as you are.

Come with those around you, come with all those who have gone before, come to find Christ in this bread, in this cup, in your heart.

Come to the table of grace.

Prayer of Consecration:

Pastor: Holy One, Holy Three, you have called us from the busy-ness of life to this time of worship as the week begins. We pause, we take a deep breath.

People: We confess that we are a flawed and imperfect people seeking reconciliation, knowing that we, too, need to ask that ancient question, "Is it I, Lord?"

Pastor: For all of us, God's love and mercy is made known in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

People: We remember. We remember that Jesus took bread and blessed it; took the cup and shared it.

Pastor: O God, pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup that they may be for us the Bread of Life to sustain us and the Cup of Salvation to restore us. Make us one body to bear witness of your love to our neighbors near and far. Amen and amen.

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Hymn

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

UMH 431

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude

Deb Snell

*Thank you for your support of Seward UMC with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.
Online donations are also welcome.*

