

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of peace, you have restored our hope and sanctified our dreams. May this offering express the joy we feel for the gift of your salvation. May our gifts reflect our wonder and gratitude for being clothed in the garments of salvation and the robes of righteousness. May our tithes and our very lives help restore the dreams of the downhearted, and fill the hungry with good things. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER FOR PEACE

God of peace and justice, you have taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Today we raise Israel and Gaza, Ukraine and Russia, and all parts of the world where people are suffering from war. Provide protection and comfort to the innocent who have been impacted. Transform the hearts and minds of all those who perpetuate violence and oppression. Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward world peace; may they not be compromised by self-interest and blind indifference. Stop the wars o, God. Amen.

*HYMN *"Joy to the World"* UMH #246

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Go forth, sanctified in the love of God.

All: God has turned our weeping into laughter.

One: Go forth, clothed in the garments of salvation and the robes of righteousness.

All: Christ has turned our sorrow into joy.

One: Go with God.

POSTLUDE *"Cradle Song"*
by Steven Scott

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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