



Welcome to Worship
Sunday, September 13, 2020
World Thank Offering Sunday



Making Disciples Who Make a Difference in Seward and Beyond

Words of Welcome and Announcements:

- *Save the date! Crop Walk 2020 will be a virtual walk during the week of October 4th—10th. Some of us will walk on October 4th at 4:00 p.m., while being distanced. Watch for more details soon!*
- *Pastor Mary Kay will offer a Thursday morning study beginning September 24 at 10:30a.m. We will begin with Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together." Copies of the Book have been ordered from Chapters Book Store and will be available in the church office by Sept 10 or 11.*

In response to God's
goodness, give freely
and abundantly!
The World Thank Offering.

United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/give @umwomen

Prelude

Sent Forth by God's Blessing, arr. by Jacob Weber

Dylan Teut

Peace of Christ Blessing

Call to Worship

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Leader: Let us gather together in thanksgiving to God.

People: **For God has made us and this earth which gives us nurture.**

Leader: Let us gather together in gratitude to one another.

People: **For we are the bearers of God's blessing and love for the earth and its people.**

All: **Let us praise God; let us join efforts; let us reach out in care and courage so that the goodness of life may be for all God's children.**

Song of Praise – For the Fruits of This Creation (*UMH 97 - alt. tune AR HYD Y NOS*)

¹ For the fruits of this creation, thanks be to God;
for good gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;
for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

² In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

³ For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Our Common Prayer (*UMW 2020*)

Giver of All Grace, as we turn our hearts and minds to You, grant us your Spirit so that we may be inspired to find new ways of sharing our gratitude with others. May our time apart be a light on our path in the world, where we work alongside others so that all may know the abundant life you offer. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson - Acts 2:41-47

⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day God added to their number those who were being saved.

Response to Scripture – O Spirit of the Living God (*UMH 539*)

¹ O Spirit of the living God, thou light and fire divine,
descend upon thy church once more, and make it truly thine.
Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace;
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.

² Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free
from mists of error, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.
Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal,
to preach to all thy great good news, God's glorious commonweal.

³ Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear,
the language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear;
till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one,
and earth shall form one family by whom thy will is done.

⁴ So shall we know the power of Christ who came this world to save;
so shall we rise with him to life which soars beyond the grave;
and earth shall win true holiness, which makes thy children whole;
till, perfected by thee, we reach creation's glorious goal!

Message

World Thank Offering

Jeanne Gee

Prayer: Type in your joys/concerns or text to 402-810-8900.

Prayer Hymn – Take My Life, and Let It Be (UMH 399)

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, God, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Pastoral Prayer

People's Prayers: Joys and Concerns shared

Lord's Prayer

Offering

We give generously of our time, talents, gifts, service, and witness.

*To make a gift in support of our continued ministry during the global pandemic,
please place your offering in the box near the front door, or visit sewardumc.org
and click on the 'donate' button.*

Offertory

The Ash Grove, arr. Jeffrey Blersch

Dylan Teut

Doxology, Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow (UMH 95)

Spoken together in unison:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Closing Litany (UMW 2020)

One voice: Come, Holy Spirit, be with us in our seeking.

Many voices: Come, Holy Spirit, be with us in our needing, walk with us in our searching.

One voice: Come, Holy Spirit, open our ears and our eyes to the One who is Living Water.

Many voices: Be with us in our wanting and our longing. Open our hearts to perceive the grace freely offered to us.

One voice: Stir up in us gratitude that makes us run to share good news.

Many voices: Give us courage to go out and proclaim, in word and deed, the good news of Jesus Christ. Give us hearts of compassion to be responsible messengers, committed to the suffering people of the world.

One voice: Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we are sent out on the journey.

Many voices: Walk with us so we can discover the path of faithfulness and invite others to come and know the grace of Christ. Amen.

Closing Hymn – Sent forth by God’s Blessing (UMH 664)

¹ Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe.

The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all.

God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.

² With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.

With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us; united us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

Blessing

Postlude

Sent Forth by God’s Blessing, arr. John Behnke

Dylan Teut

Please wait for an usher to dismiss you from the sanctuary, row by row. Thank you!

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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