



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, November 15, 2020

8:00 a.m. Worship Gathering

Making Disciples Who Make a Difference in Seward and Beyond



Words of Welcome and Announcements:

- Charge Conference Pandemic Edition, Chapter Two: As a follow up to the actions the Administrative Council took on Oct 18 to review and approve charge conference reports, our District Superintendent, Pastor Nancy Tomlinson requests that members of Administrative Council attend a Zoom meeting on Sunday evening, November 15, at 5:30p.m. This will be a network meeting with other churches in our network. During this meeting, the D.S. will ask Administrative Council members to affirm the votes and work we did on Oct 18. The link to the Zoom gathering will be sent to the Administrative Council members when it becomes available. Thank you for adding this to your calendar!
- Would you like to engage with people during worship, online, from your home? Digital ushers are needed! Please contact Wess if you are interested.

Prelude

Pam McConnell



Peace of Christ Blessing

Call to Worship: (*Shirley N. Morgan, Jr., "Special Services for Special Days", p.27*)

L: For the abundance of your gifts to us in the days that are past, and for the promise of steadfast grace in the days that are ahead,

P: We give thanks to you, O God.

L: For life and health; for strength of of mind and heart; for common things which come with every day and hour,

P: We give thanks to you, O God.

L: For home, for family, for friends, for all those blessings by which life becomes more meaningful and time more precious; and for the love which is ours in Christ Jesus who loves us,

P: We give thanks to you, O God.

L: In grateful acknowledgement that these gifts of life are ours through your merciful grace,

P: We give ourselves to you, O God, and praise your name forever.

Song of Praise – Kindred, We Now Meet to Worship

Kindred we now meet to worship, reaching out through screen and phone.

Though we dwell in isolation, we know that we're not alone.

Worshipping beyond our building, Far apart yet face to face,

We're united as one body, Bound by Christ's redeeming grace.

Friends be gentle with each other, there's so much we're going through.

May this be a time of healing, Holding space for grieving too.

Bodies, minds, and hearts are weary. Anguish fills the aching soul.

But by God's unfailing mercy, Broken hearts will be made whole.

Our Common Prayer *(UMH, pg. 877)*

New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 136 - Selected Verses

O give thanks to God, for God is good,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the God of gods,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;

who alone does great wonders,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;

who by understanding made the heavens,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;

who spread out the earth on the waters,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;

who made the great lights,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;

the sun to rule over the day,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;

the moon and the stars to rule over the night,
for God's steadfast love endures forever; ...

It is God who remembered us in our low estate,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;

And rescued us from our foes,

for God's steadfast love endures forever;
who gives food to all flesh,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
O give thanks to the God of heaven,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Response to Scripture – Count Your Blessings

1 When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

2 Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by. [Refrain]

3 When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high. [Refrain]

4 So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. [Refrain]

Message

Gratitude

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

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

Prayer Hymn – In Our God I'll Be Ever Thankful (TFWS 2195)

In our God I'll be ever thankful,
in our God I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, our God is near,
lift up your voices, our God is near.

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.

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

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication (Lavon Bayler, "Fresh Winds of the Spirit," p.127)

Eternal God, we bring offerings, not because you require them, but because we want to express our thanks; not to fulfill the law, but to demonstrate love; not to fund our pet programs, but to help others experience your justice and righteousness. Use these gifts to bring comfort to those who grieve, meaning to all whose vision is clouded, freedom to the oppressed, and food for all who hunger. Please accept and multiply these offerings to the benefit of everyone who receives and all who give. Amen.

Blessing

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Pam McConnell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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