



## Welcome to Worship

Sunday, November 22, 2020

8:00 a.m. Worship Gathering

*Making Disciples Who Make a Difference in Seward and Beyond*



### Words of Welcome and Announcements:

- Would you like to engage with people during worship, online, from your home? Digital ushers are needed! Please contact Wess if you are interested.
- Live Nativity Volunteers Needed! The event will be socially distanced with face coverings expected. Volunteers will rotate outside/inside to warm up. Participants will view the Nativity from the safety and distance of their vehicles as they drive through the parking lot. Sign-up today! <https://bit.ly/SUMClivenativity>
- Pick up your Advent @ Home Worship bags today from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. in the Seward UMC Parking Lot!

Prelude

Deb Snell



### 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 – Come! Come! Everybody Worship (TFWS 2271)**

### Refrain:

Come! Come! Everybody worship with a prayer or song of praise!  
Come! Come! Everybody worship! Worship God always!

<sup>1</sup> Worship and remember  
to keep the Sabbath day.  
Take a rest and think of God;  
put your work away!

<sup>2</sup> Worship and remember  
our God's unending care,  
reaching out to love and help  
people everywhere!

<sup>3</sup> Worship and remember  
your blessings great and small.  
Give to God an offering;  
show your thanks for all!

## **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 107:1-22** (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Give thanks for Yahweh's goodness;  
God's love endures forever!  
Let these be the words of Yahweh's redeemed,  
those redeemed from the oppressor's clutches,  
those brought home from foreign lands,  
from east and west, from northern lands and southern seas.  
Some lost their way in the wilderness, in the wasteland,  
not knowing how to reach an inhabited town;  
they were hungry and thirsty,  
and their courage was running low.  
They called to Yahweh in their trouble,  
and God rescued them by a direct route to an inhabited town.  
Let them thank Yahweh for this great love,  
for the marvels done for all people --  
for God has satisfied the thirsty  
and filled the hungry with good things.

Some were living in gloom and darkness,  
prisoners suffering in iron chains  
because they defied God's word,  
and scorned the advice of the Most High.  
God humbled their hearts with suffering;  
they stumbled and there was no one to help them.  
Then they called to God in their trouble  
and God rescued them from their sufferings,  
releasing them from gloom and darkness  
and shattering their chains.  
Let them thank God for this great love,

for the marvels done for all people --  
for breaking bronze gates open  
and smashing iron bars.

Some were fools who suffered because of their rebellion,  
because of their own sins,  
until they were so sick, nearly at death's door,  
that food became repugnant.

Then they called to God in their trouble  
and God rescued them from their sufferings,  
sending a word to heal them,  
and snatching them from the Pit.

Let them thank God for this great love,  
for marvels done for all people.

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and recount what God has done in joyful song.

### **Response to Scripture – For the Beauty of the Earth (UMH 92)**

<sup>1</sup> For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies;

#### Refrain

God of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

<sup>2</sup> For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light; *(refrain)*

<sup>4</sup> For the joy of human love  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild; *(refrain)*

<sup>6</sup> For thyself, best Gift Divine,  
to the world so freely given,  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth, and joy in heaven; *(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

## 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](http://sewardumc.org) and click on the 'donate' button.*

## Offertory

Deb Snell

## 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.**

## Closing Hymn - God, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing (UMH 671)

God, dismiss us with thy blessing;  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, thy love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us,  
traveling through this wilderness.

## Blessing

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

## Postlude

Deb Snell

## **The People of God Go Forth to Serve**

*Hymn/Song music and texts used in this service are done so by permission of CCLI License 944110 and streaming license CSPL139482 and performance/broadcast license CCS 8686*

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