



Welcome to Worship @ Home
Sunday, November 29, 2020 — 8:00 a.m.
Longing for Emmanuel — O Wisdom



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 Workshop bags in the church parking lot on Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.!

Prelude

Pam McConnell

Peace of Christ Blessing

Call to Worship: *(MKT, 2020)*

L: Just as you are, welcome to this time of worship.

P: **We are weary. It has been a long and difficult year. And many of our holiday traditions are compromised or cancelled this year.**

L: Bring your weariness, bring your longing, bring your disappointment, they are a part of you and just as you are, you are welcome here.

P: **We come longing for our faith to be strengthened, for our hope to be renewed. We come seeking a bit of joy and a world of peace.**

L: We will journey together through this Advent season. We will be support and encouragement for one another. Along the way, may we all encounter the Holy One in our midst.

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.

Sibling share a song of gladness, praise God and spreading cheer,
So that in these days of sadness, we won't be consumed by fear.
In this time of mass confusion, sickness, loss, and overwhelm,
Let's encourage one another, hands not joined but hearts are held.



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 (MKT, 2020)

O come Wisdom of the Ages, we are lost in the chaos of this world. Guide us back to faith. Show us the way to live even in the midst of difficult times. Be our guiding star and keep us ever on God's path we pray. Amen.

Lighting of Advent Wreath

A: In the midst of unsettled times, it is good to return to familiar traditions, like our Advent wreath where we light a new candle each week.

B: We begin Advent by lighting the candle of Wisdom as we pray for our faith to be strengthened.

C: "O Wisdom, sent forth from the mouth of God Most High, extending from end to far end, ordering all things mightily: come and teach us the way of prudence."

One purple candle is lit while a soloist sings verse 2 of UMK #211: "O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson

Proverbs 2:1-11

"My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;
If you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding;
If you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures —
Then you will understand the fear of God and find the knowledge of God.
For God gives wisdom,
From God's mouth come knowledge and understanding;
God stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
God is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,
Guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of God's faithful ones.
Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;
For wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
Prudence will watch over you, and understanding will guard you."

Response to Scripture – Be Thou My Vision (UMH 451)

¹ Be thou my vision, O God of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

² Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, God;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

³ Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Message

Longing for Emmanuel - *O Wisdom*

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

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

Prayer Hymn – Prepare the Way of the Lord (UMH 207)

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

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
and click on the 'donate' button.*

Offertory

Pam McConnell

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 (MKT, 2020)

We give thanks, Holy One, for all that you have done in our lives. We give thanks for all that you entrust to our care and stewardship. Receive now the gifts of this congregation. Grant that they may be used for ministries of love and service, worship and praise, study, care, mission, and outreach. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn - People, Look East (UMH 202)

¹ People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

² Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

³ Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love the Star, is on the way.

Blessing

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Pam McConnell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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