



Welcome to Worship @ Home

Sunday, December 13, 2020 — 10:30 a.m.

Longing for Emmanuel — O Radiant Dawn

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.
- Blue Christmas Service - Wednesday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. - Facebook and YouTube.
- Parking Lot Carols & Drive-In Movie - Sunday, December 20 starting at 5:00 p.m.
- Bible Study Zoom - every Thursday @ 10:30 a.m. Contact Pastor Mary Kay for details!

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 – O Come, All Ye Faithful (UMH 234)

¹O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;

Refrain O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

³Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

⁵Child for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee with love and awe.
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? (Refrain)



Our Common Prayer (MKT, 2020)

O Come Radiant Dawn, we are troubled people living in troubled times. Shine the light of your justice on the broken places of our world. Teach us to be effective advocates for justice. Like Mary, may our work for justice bring joy to ourselves and those around us. 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 have lit candles of Wisdom and the Key of David as we have prayed for faith to be strengthened and hope be reborn.

C: This week we light the “Radiant Dawn” candle as we cry out for justice. We remember that Mary gave voice to the call for justice in her Magnificat. She also set the example of how the work for justice lives side by side with joy.

D: “O Radiant Dawn, most splendid Light Eternal, and Sun of Justice, come, and enlighten all who dwell in darkness, and the shadow of death.”

The two purple candles from Advent I and II are lit as is the pink candle, “Mary’s candle” while a soloist sings verse 6 of #211: “O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”

Children’s Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 60: 1-3,17b-20; Luke 1:46-55

Isaiah 60:17b-20

“Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of God has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
And thick darkness the peoples;
But God will arise upon you,
And God’s glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
And rulers to the brightness of your dawn...

...I will appoint Peace as your overseer
And Righteousness as your taskmaster.
Violence shall no more be heard in your land,
Devastation or destruction within your borders;
You shall call your walls Salvation,

And your gates Praise.
The sun shall no longer be your light by day,
Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night;
But God will be your everlasting light
And your God will be your glory.
Your sun shall no more go down,
Or your moon withdraw itself;
For God will be your everlasting light,
And your days of mourning shall be ended.”

Luke 1: 46-55

“And Mary said,
‘My soul magnifies God
And my spirit rejoices in God my savior,
For God has looked with favor on the lowliness of this servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed;
For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
And Holy is God’s name.
God’s mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.
God has shown strength of arm;
God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
And lifted up the lowly;
God has filled the hungry with good things,
And sent the rich away empty.
God has helped the servant Israel, and in remembrance of God’s own mercy,
According to the promise God made to our ancestors,
To Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants forever.”

Response to Scripture – I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (UMH 206)

¹ I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

² I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. (*Refrain*)

Refrain In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

³ I’m looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (*Refrain*)

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

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

Jaci Forbes

Doxology: Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow/What Child Is This (UMH 95/UMH 219)

**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.**

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary**

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 - Make Room

¹ A family hiding from the storm
Found no place at the keeper's door
It was for this a child was born
To save a world so cold and hollow

² A sleeping town they did not know
That lying in a manger low
A Savior king who had no home
Has come to heal our sorrows (Chorus 1)

³ Shepherds counting sheep at night
Do not fear the glory light
You are precious in His sight
God has come to raise the lowly. (Chorus 1 & 2)

Chorus 1
Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
For God to write His story

Chorus 2
You can come as you are
but it may set you apart
When you make in your heart
and trade your dreams for His glory
Make room in your heart. Make room in your heart.

Blessing

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Megan Forbes

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

The Seward United Methodist Church, 1400 N. 5th Street, Seward, NE 68434

Phone: 402-643-4156 ~ Fax 402-643-4159

E-mail: umcseward@gmail.com ~ Website: www.sewardumc.org

Office hours: Flexible Right Now... call ahead