



Welcome to Worship @ Home

Sunday, December 20, 2020 — 10:30 a.m.

Longing for Emmanuel — O Desire of Nations

Making Disciples Who Make a Difference in Seward and Beyond



Words of Welcome and Announcements:

- TONIGHT - Parking Lot Carols & Drive-In Movie!!! Carols begin at 5:00 p.m., movie at 5:30 p.m.
- Pick-up your Christmas Eve worship bag tonight in the Seward UMC parking lot. Bags will be available starting at 4:00 p.m. and throughout the carols/movie event.
- Christmas Eve @ Seward UMC
 - Plans, plans, plans

Prelude *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*
 Pam McConnell & Sarah Rodocker

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 – It Came Upon the Midnight Clear *(UMH 218)*

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

4 For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold



when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Our Common Prayer (MKT, 2020)

O come Desire of Nations, we are caught in cycles of distrust and even violence. Our deep longing is for genuine peace — in our hearts, in our homes, in our communities, in our country, and all around our world. Grant that we may be peacemakers to work with you, O God, to create a global shalom. 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: The previous three weeks of Advent, we have lit the Advent candles of Wisdom, Key of David, and Radiant Dawn as we have sought faith, hope, freedom, justice, and joy.

C: On this, the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, we light the “Desire of Nations” candle as we pray for peace with all of our heart.

D: “O King of the nations, and their Desire, the keystone, who makes both one: come and save humanity, whom you formed from the mud of earth.”

This week light the pink candle and all three purple candles while a soloist sings verse 7 of #211: “O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life, deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”

Children’s Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Special Music

Christmas Medley

Worldwide UMC Virtual Choir

Scripture Lesson

Haggai 2:1-9

“On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of God came through the prophet Haggai: ‘Speak to Zerubbabel son of Sheltiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them, “Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? But now be strong Zerubbabel,” declares God, “Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,” declares God. “And work, for I am with you,” declares the Almighty, “This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.

‘This is what God Almighty says: “In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations and the desire of all nations will come, and will fill this house with glory.” Says God. “The silver is mine and the gold is mine” declares God. “The glory of this

present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,” says God. “And in this place, I will grant peace,” declares God Almighty.”

Response to Scripture – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (UMH 240)

¹ Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

² Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin’s womb,
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. (refrain)

³ Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may day,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Message

Longing for Emmanuel - *O Desire of Nations*

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Special Music

Still, Still, Still

Pam McConnell & Sarah Rodocker

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

Angels We Have Heard on High

Jena Eberspacher

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 - Glory (Let There Be Peace)

¹ One star

Burns in the darkness

Shines with the promise, Emmanuel

One child

Born in the stillness

Living within us, Emmanuel

² One voice

Speaks for the voiceless

Hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel

One love

Brings us together

Now and forever, Emmanuel *(chorus)*

Chorus

We're singing Glory, Glory

Let there be peace, let there be peace

Singing Glory, Glory

Let there be peace, let it start in me

Bridge

Do not be afraid

God's love is strong enough to save us

Nothing stands in the way

God's love is strong enough to lead us *(repeat)*

Ending

Let there be peace let it start in me

Blessing

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Special Music

Hosanna in Excelsis

Megan Forbes & Dylan Teut

Zoom Breakout Fellowship Groups

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