



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, January 3, 2020

Happy New Year | Epiphany | Communion

Making Disciples Who Make a Difference in Seward and Beyond



Words of Welcome and Announcements:

- Ministry gatherings for confirmation, UMYF, Godparents groups, Bible study, etc. will all begin again the week of January 10. Watch for updates about links zoom or in-person moments.
- Our new zoom Sunday School for for mixed ages of children will start in mid-January! Leaders are working to get ready.

Prelude (8:00 a.m.)

Dylan Teut

Peace of Christ Blessing

Call to Worship: (MKT 2021)

L: On the threshold of this new year, welcome to worship.

P: We come, eager to leave the old year behind, eager for a fresh start.

L: Last year was fraught with trouble, this year will bring its own challenges and its own joys.

P: As we enter this new year, we renew our commitment to follow Jesus and live with compassion.

Carol

Angels From the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

¹ Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

² Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us in now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: (*refrain*)

Refrain:

Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

³ Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar,
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: (*refrain*)

Our Common Prayer (MKT, 2021)

God of Time and Space, as we reflect on the year just ended, help us know what to keep and cherish, and what to let go and set aside. Let us recognize lessons we need to learn. Help us to see and count the blessings of last year. And as we turn to face into this new year, enable us to prioritize our relationship with you and our relationships with loved ones and neighbors. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

Carol

The First Noel

UMH 245

¹The first Noel the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

²They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (*refrain*)

³And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far,
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. (*refrain*)

⁴This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took it's rest;
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. (*refrain*)

⁵Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in Christ's presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. (*refrain*)

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson - Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Carol

We Three Kings

UMH 254

¹ We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and foundation, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

**O, star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to they perfect light.**

² Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *(refrain)*

³ Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high. *(refrain)*

⁴ Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealing in the stone cold tomb. *(refrain)*

⁵ Glorious now behold Christ arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. *(refrain)*

Message

The Stuff of Stars and Dreams

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

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

Dylan Teut (8:00 a.m.)

Pam McConnell & Sarah Rodocker (10:30 a.m.)

Prayer of Dedication *(MKT, 2021)*

Holy God, take my life and let it be consecrated to you. Let the words I speak, the things I do, be reflections of your grace. Take my time, my talent, and my treasure to be dedicated in service to you and for your creation. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

L1: God be with you

P: And also with you

L2: Lift up your hearts

P: We lift them up to God

L1: With joy and thanksgiving we come to this communion table. John Wesley believed that this sacrament is a means of grace... something that we do which prepares us for, and increases the possibility of-- encountering God. Throughout the ages, mystics and ordinary folk have encountered the Divine in a myriad of ways. Zechariah met God in the temple during a worship ritual. Mary had a mystical encounter with the angel Gabriel. Elizabeth knew God's presence through her physical being. Joseph heard from God in his dreams. The shepherds experienced God in a shared angelic vision; the substance of which they confirmed by finding Jesus in Bethlehem. Anna and Simeon lived in an open expectancy of recognizing God in the world around them. The magi saw signs of the Divine in the wider creation. Elijah found God in a still small voice. John Wesley felt his heart strangely warmed while listening to a commentary on the book of Romans. Mother Theresa saw Jesus in the faces of those suffering in Calcutta. We remember and give thanks for all the many ways God is revealed as we join the everlasting chorus:

P: Holy, holy, holy God – heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in your name.

L2: O God, you are holy and blessed is Jesus of Nazareth, a revelation of your incarnate love. At this table we remember the stories of Jesus – his generosity for those in need, his patience for those confused, his anger at religious institutional corruption, his tenderness for those outcast, his compassion for those hurting, his solidarity with those wronged, his commitment to justice and peace, his delight in beauty and banquet, and his vision for the beloved community.

We remember that in his final hours, Jesus gathered with his closest friends and family to share a sacred, ritual meal. In that sharing, Jesus transformed the ritual to a way of remembering which has been handed down through the ages. Jesus took bread, as we take bread. Jesus blessed and broke it, giving it to those with him as a sign his love which he offered to all. Jesus took the cup, as we take the cup. Jesus blessed the cup and shared it as a sign of the new covenant that all might take and remember.

So this day, at this table, we remember the covenant of God's grace and love. We share this ritual, sacred meal. We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

L1: Divine One who meets us in familiar and unexpected ways, be present with us this day. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these simple gifts of bread and cup. Pour out your Holy Spirit on each one gathered here. Grant that this sacrament be a means of grace for us, that this bread be for us the Bread of Life and that this cup be for us the Cup of Grace. Bring to awareness in our hearts that, as we partake these simple gifts, we partake of your unconditional love. Then send us forth to share your love to all the world. So we pray. So we pray. Amen.

¹ Take my life, and let it be consecrated, God, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

² Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

³ Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Benediction**Pastor Mary Kay Totty****Postlude****Dylan Teut (8:00 a.m.)****Pam McConnell & Sarah Rodocker (10:30 a.m.)*****The People of God Go Forth to Serve***

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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