



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, January 17, 2020 — 8:00 a.m.

Human Relations Sunday

Making Disciples Who Make a Difference in Seward and



Words of Welcome and Announcements:

- Today is Human Relations Sunday where we are called to make an impact in communities where our brothers and sister in Christ lack the resources or tools to reach their God-given potentials. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer program, and programs that would with at-risk teens.
- All are welcome to weekly Bible study with Pastor Mary Kay on Thursday mornings! Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. or from the comfort of home at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom.
- Our new zoom Sunday School for for mixed ages of children will start in mid-January! Leaders are working to get ready.
- Zoom Fellowship Time will begin soon after worship on Sundays. If you are willing to host these times of connection with one another, please let Pastor Mary Kay, Pastor Jo Ellen, or Wess know!

Prelude

Deb Snell

Peace of Christ Blessing

Call to Worship: *(from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program)*

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

We live sustained by God's presence and love.

P: Thanks be to God.

L: As we mourn the wounds of God's children,

P: God weeps with us.

L: As we give thanks for brothers and sisters who have lived in faith,

P: God gives thanks with us.

L: As we struggle for justice,

P: God struggles with us.

L: As we strive for peace,

P: God strives with us.

L: As we work to build the beloved community,

P: God works with us.

L: As we offer our gifts to all,

P: God blesses us.

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

P: Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.

Hymn

God Of Love, We've Known Division

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette | Tune: BEACH SPRING, B. F. White

¹ God of Love, we've known division and we've seen its awful cost.

We have struggled as a nation, and there's much that we have lost.

We have been a house divided - and, divided, we can't stand.

May our nation be united; give us peace throughout this land.

² Turn us, Lord, from what divides us - fear that drives us far apart,

greed that leads to great injustice, racist ways that break your heart.

May we seek what brings together - hearts that bear each other's pain,

care and mercy toward our neighbors, love that welcomes strangers in.

³ May we all, in conversation, speak the truth and listen well.

May we hear, across this nation, stories others have to tell.

May we learn from other cultures and be blessed by their worldview;

May we serve with one another - loving others, loving you.

⁴ You have challenged us to goodness; you have shown a kinder way.

It's your love that now inspires us as we seek a better day.

May we end our harsh division; may we stop the hate and fear.

Make us one, Lord, as a nation; may we be united here.

Our Common Prayer *(from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program)*

Gracious God, you create us and love us; you make us to live together in a community. We thank you for Martin Luther King, Jr. and all your children who have been filled with your vision for our lives and who have worked to bring your vision into reality. Fill us with your vision. Guide us to live by your vision, working to build the beloved community where everyone is welcomed, all are valued, power is shared, and all your children know wholeness and well-being. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson - 1 John 4:7-8; 19-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love...

We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their sisters and brothers, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their sisters and brothers also.

Hymn

Where Charity and Love Prevail

UMH 549

¹ Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.

² With grateful joy and holy fear
true charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength
now love Christ in return.

³ Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.

⁴ Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be Christ the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.

⁵ Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.

⁶ Love can exclude no race or creed
if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose Maker is the same.

Readers Theatre

"Where do we go from here: Chaos or Community?"

¹ Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

³ God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

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

Music for Prayer

Diverse in Culture, Nations Race

¹ Diverse in culture nations race
we come together by your grace
God let us be a meeting ground
Where hope and healing love are found

² God let us be a bridge of care
Connecting people everywhere
Help us confront all fear and hate
And lust for pow'r that separate

³ When chasms widen storms arise
O Holy Spirit make us wise
Let our resolve like steel be strong
To stand with those who suffer wrong

⁴ God let us be a table spread
With gifts of love and broken bread
Where all find welcome, grace attends
And enemies arise as friends

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

Deb Snell

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.

Hymn

For Everyone Born

Text: Shirley Erana Murray | Tune: Brian Mann

¹ For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace;
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.

² For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair. (R)

⁴ For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live. (R)

³ For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong. (R)

⁵ For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free. (R)

Benediction

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Deb Snell

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