



Welcome to Worship on Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 — 6:00 p.m.

Disciples Who Made a Difference

Making Disciples Who Make a Difference in Seward and Beyond

Rev. Mary Kay Totty, Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm, and Confirmands

Greeters and Acolytes: [Jake Opfer and Braden Soester](#)

Words of Welcome and Announcements:

- Join us for worship on Sundays at 8a.m. and 10:30a.m.
- Adult Bible Study at 9:15a.m. on Sundays
- Children's Zoom Sunday School and Fellowship Zoom on Sundays at 9:30a.m. Watch for the emailed link sent each Saturday.
- Bible Study - every Thursday @ 10:30 a.m. Contact Pastor Mary Kay for details!
- Other special Lenten times will be listed in the Lent Worship booklet and in the News and Updates sent weekly... watch for the Egg Hunt and Drive In Movie, Cooking with Pastor Jo Ellen and Shannon making pretzels and Jesus Biscuits, and other special activities.

Prelude

Deb Snell, Pianist

Peace of Christ Blessing. [Daylon Salyer](#)

Call to Worship: [Zack Parra](#)

L: Why have we gathered in this place?

P: We come in praise of the God of life and in affirmation of Jesus Christ as the truth and center of our lives. We celebrate places where love is found in life, and we give thanks for the gift of new life that comes to us this Lenten season.

A Lenten Reading: (Penance Service Cycle B, posted on the [Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogsdenburg](#) website). [Lawson Luebbe](#) and [Daylon Salyer](#)

L: I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you,
taking from your bodies your stony hearts
and giving you natural hearts. (Ezekiel 36:26)
A clean heart, create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

D: Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with your whole heart,
with fasting, and weeping, and mourning. (Joel 2:12)
A clean heart, create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

L: I will give you a heart with which to understand that I am the Lord.
You shall be my people and I will be your God,
for you shall return to me with your whole heart. (Jeremiah 24:7)
A clean heart, create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

D: Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
“Harden not your hearts.” (Psalm 95:7-8)
A clean heart, create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

Hymn
2138

Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes

TFWS

1 Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins;
Thus we keel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.
We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray;
Now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!

2 We have failed to love our neighbors, their offenses to forgive,
Have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live,
We are jealous, proud, impatient, loving overmuch our things;
May the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.

3 We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need;
And our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed;
We have wasted earth's resources; want and suffering we've ignored;
Come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us, Lord!

Our Common Prayer. *(Rolland Reece, 1999).* [Ethan Anderson Please join me, as we pray together...](#)

O God, we thank you for the promise of springtime; for infant birds breaking out of their shells; for flowers bursting out of the cold winter's earth. We thank you for children who say what we are too embarrassed to say; for friends who take seriously our private dreams; and for those who help us escape from our secrecy and loneliness. If your Spirit is freedom, O God, then we see you in many places.

However, on this day, our worship reminds us not only of your works but of our own. We are here to look inward, to prepare ourselves, to be in readiness for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Looking honestly into ourselves is hard work. It is so much easier to delay, or to point out our neighbor's faults, for we are busy and our neighbor's faults seem so obvious. We are tempted to pray, "Dear God, help us find rest, for we are so harassed, and please take care of the insensitive man next door, he is making such a mess of things.

But we know in our sleepless nights that our prayers are not for the insensitive man next door, but for ourselves. We are the ones who can not see. We speak harshly and vindictively and cannot see where the anger comes from. We keep pulling back from people and cannot see nor understand our fear. It is so hard, O God, to see how we contribute to our own unhappiness. It is as if we choose to hide from ourselves.

We invite you into our lives to enable us to see what we are unable to see, or choose not to see, and thereby gain freedom from the patterns that would destroy us. We openly confess our great need for you. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Setting Our Lenten Intention : [McKenzie Martin](#)

For Lent this year, we will be looking to 5 “Disciples Who Made a Difference” for inspiration and example of how we, ourselves, can be better disciples of Jesus.

- We will look to Mary McLeod Bethune as we remember that Disciples Learn.
- We remember Corrie ten Boom and her example that Disciples Help.
- We will consider the life and ministry of Howard Thurman, an example that Disciples Pray.
- We turn to Sojourner Truth to be encouraged that Disciples Witness.
- We give thanks for Archbishop Oscar Romero who knew that Disciples Worship.

During this season of Lent, may our faith commitments deepen as we seek to continue and even improve our Learning, Helping, Praying, Witnessing, and Worshiping.

Scripture Reading — Matthew 5:1-11 the Beatitudes, NRSV. [Xander Foulk](#)

When Jesus^[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will

inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^[b] on my account.

Lenten Responsive Prayer: (Wild Goose Worship Group, 2000) [Max Briggs](#)

L: Before you, Jesus Christ we admit how and where we have underestimated our influence, letting our words or silences hurt, abusing trust, betraying confidences. God, have mercy;

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: We admit how and where we have made a show of our religion, attracting more attention to us, and less to you. God, have mercy;

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: We admit to where in our lives a vague interest has become a dangerous passion, and we are not sure what to do or whether we are still in control. God, have mercy.

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: Jesus Christ, if we have looked or longed for an easier gospel, a lighter cross, a less demanding savior, then turn our eyes and avert our longing from what we want to choose to the one who has chosen us. Forgive our unfaithfulness, and, for our better living, give us not the remedy we desire tomorrow, but the grace you offer today.

P: We ask this for your love’s sake. Amen.

**Hymn
2152**

Change My Heart, O God

TFWS

Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like you.

You are the Potter,
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.

Imposition of Ashes:

We invite you to come forward and extend your hand of choice for the ashes and blessing. You are welcome to pause and pray before returning to your seats. Please leave a safe distance between you and the other worshippers.

Prayer of Confession (*Adapted from: Book of Common Prayer: A Litany of Penitence for Ash Wednesday, Seabury Press, 1977*) **MK and JEA**

Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

All our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, O God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance, Holy One, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Holy One.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Holy One.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Holy One.

Restore us, Gracious God, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By your saving grace and love as seen in your Son, Jesus Christ,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection. Amen and Amen.

WORDS of ASSURANCE (*Adapted from Scott Bullock*)

The God of David is our God and hides their face from our sins. God blots out all of our iniquities. God creates in us a clean heart and renews a right spirit within us. We will not be cast away from God's presence, nor have the Holy Spirit taken from us. God has restored to us the joy of our salvation, and upholds us with a willing spirit. O, Children of God, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Hymn
269**

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UMH

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins
And close by thee to stay.

2 As thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.

3 As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst
penitence,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live
By thy most holy word.

4 And through these days of

and through thy passion tide,
yea, evermore in life and death
Jesus, with us abide.

5 Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last.

Benediction and Blessing
Postlude

Pretzel bags and water will be in the foyer. Hosts: [Jake Opfer and Braden Soester](#)

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