



Welcome to Worship
Sunday, February 14, 2020 — 10:30 a.m.
*Making Disciples Who Make a Difference
in Seward and Beyond*



Words of Welcome and Announcements:

See announcement flyer.



Peace of Christ Blessing

Call to Worship

L: Come in from the cold of winter to the warmth of worship.

P: We come that our hearts may be warmed by God's word.

L: Come in from the weariness of a difficult season to the reassurance of worship.

P: We come that our hope may be renewed.

L: Come in from the loneliness of a pandemic to the virtual and in person gathering of this congregation.

P: We come to feel a new connection with one another and with God.

L: Come! Worship! Be renewed.

Song of Praise

Because of Your Love

Intro Yeah yeah

Verse As we come into Your presence
We remember ev'ry blessing
That You've poured out so freely from above
Lifting gratitude and praises
For compassion so amazing
God we've come to give You thanks
For all You've done

Chorus Because of Your love we're forgiven
Because of Your love our hearts are clean
We lift You up with songs of freedom
Forever we're changed because of Your love

Our Common Prayer

God of Infinite Love, teach us to love extravagantly. Remind us that love is experienced in many ways. Enable us to be more loving each and every day. Amen and amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson - Ruth 1:15-18

¹⁵ So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

I Corinthians 13 (from *The Message*, selected verses)

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. ... we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

Hymn

The Gift of Love

UMH 408

¹ Though I may speak with bravest fire
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

² Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

³ Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

Message

Love Stories

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Celebration of Holy Baptism

Leo Hall Lackaff

Parents: Caleb and Macey Lackaff

Sponsors: Cayden Moore, Sydney Focht, Derek Lackaff

Grandparents: Michael & Angie Moore
Crystal Moore
Richard & Laura Lackaff
Great-Grandparents: Glenda & Len Bushek
Ruth Moore
Great-Great-Grandparent: Nona Heyen

Introduction

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation

and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Presentation of Candidates

I present Leo Hall Lackaff for baptism.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you (*parents/sponsors*):

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you

to resist evil, injustice, and oppression

in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,

put your whole trust in his grace,

and promise to serve him as your Lord,

in union with the Church which Christ has opened

to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

Will you nurture this child

in Christ's holy Church,

that by your teaching and example he may be guided

to accept God's grace for himself,

to profess his faith openly,

and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

Do you (*the congregation*), as Christ's body, the Church,

reaffirm both your rejection of sin

and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life
and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround these persons
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that they may grow in their trust of God,
and be found faithful in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them,
that they may be true disciples
who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos,
you swept across the dark waters
and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah
you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,
you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan
to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. .

Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,
nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called his disciples
to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection
and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare his works to the nations,
his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
to bless this gift of water and Leo who receives it,
to wash away his sin

and clothe him in righteousness
throughout his life,

that, dying and being raised with Christ,
he may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

Baptism with Laying On of Hands

Leo, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Holy Spirit work within you,
that being born through water and the Spirit,
you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Now it is our joy to welcome
our new brother in Christ.

**Through baptism
you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit
into God's new creation
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.
We are all one in Christ Jesus.
With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you
as a member of the family of Christ.**

Presentation of Certificate of Baptism and Other Gifts

Response to Baptism

God Claims You

TFWS 2249

Leo, Leo, God claims you,
God helps you protects you and loves you, too.

¹ We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be. *(Refrain)*

² We your family love you so, we vow to help your faith to grow. *(Refrain)*

³ We are here to say this day that we will help you on your way. *(Refrain)*

Reception into the United Methodist Church

Caleb & Macey Lackaff

As members of Christ's universal Church,
will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

Reception into the Local Congregation

As members of this congregation,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your prayers, your presence,
your gifts, your service, and your witness?

I will.

Commendation and Welcome

Members of the household of God,
I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,**

**we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace,
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may live in grace and peace.

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

Music for Prayer

Come and Fill Our Hearts

TFWS 2157

Come and fill our hearts with your Love,
you alone, O God, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your Love,
Alleluia!

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

Jacquelyn Forbes

Prayer of Dedication

Receive O God the offerings we bring with glad and generous hearts. Grant that they will be used for the ministries of this congregation as we seek to make disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond. For all that is entrusted to us, we give thanks. Amen.

Hymn**Celebrate Love****TFWS 2073**

Celebrate love, love, love.

Celebrate love, love, love.

Celebrate love so amazing.

He's creating his wonderful love in you.

¹ We can celebrate his love today. Jesus loves everyone.

We can celebrate new life today. Jesus loves everyone. *(refrain)*

² We can sing bout his love for us, Jesus loves everyone.

He is living hear inside of us. Jesus loves everyone. *(refrain)*

Benediction**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