

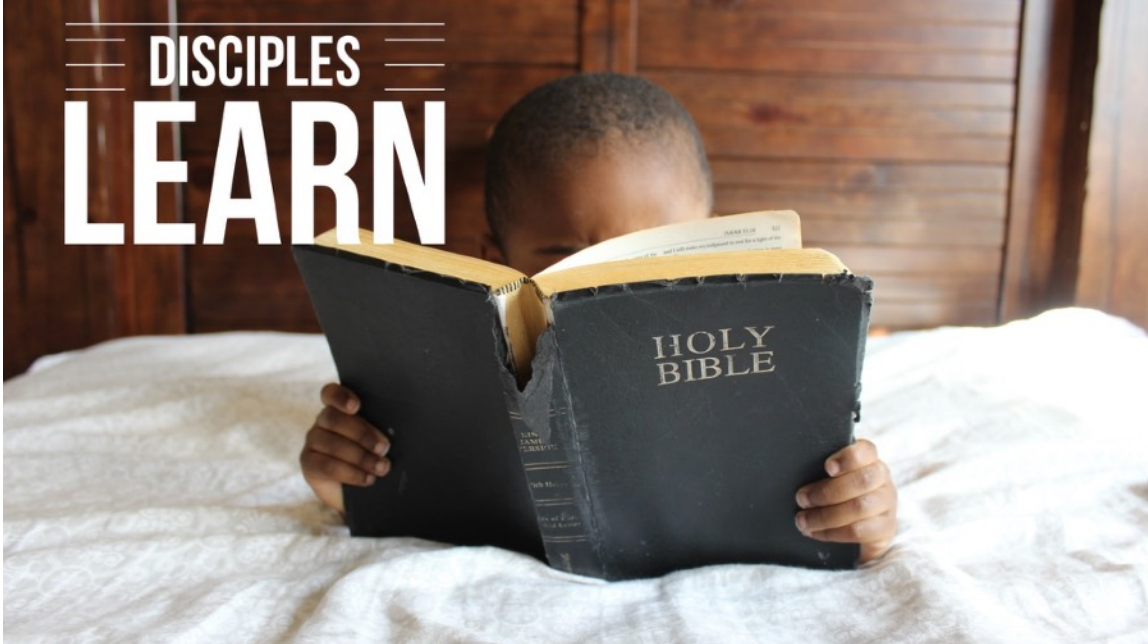


Welcome to Worship
Sunday, February 21, 2020 — 8:00 a.m.
*Making Disciples Who Make a Difference
in Seward and Beyond*



Words of Welcome and Announcements:

See announcement flyer.



Prelude

Pam McConnell

Peace of Christ Blessing

Call to Worship

L: Welcome to worship during this season of Lent.

P: We gather today seeking to understand how to be better disciples.

L: We give thanks for the cloud of witnesses who have embodied faithfulness to Jesus in their daily lives.

P: May we learn from disciples who made a difference in order that we also may make a difference.

¹ Praise the source of faith and learning
that has sparked and stoked the mind
with a passion for discerning
how the world has been designed.
Let the sense of wonder flowing
from the wonders we survey
keep our faith forever growing
and renew our need to pray:

³ May our faith redeem the blunder
of believing that our thought
has displaced the grounds for wonder
which the ancient prophets taught.
May our learning curb the error
which unthinking faith can breed
let us justify some terror
with an antiquated creed.

² God of wisdom, we acknowledge
that our science and our art
and the breadth of human knowledge
only partial truth impart.
Far beyond our calculation
lies a depth we cannot sound
where your purpose for creation
and the pulse of life are found.

⁴ As to currents in a river
fight each other's undertow
til converging they deliver
one coherent steady flow,
blend, O God, our faith and learning
till they carve a singer course,
till they join as one, returning
praise and thanks to you, their source.

Our Common Prayer

God of Wisdom, we thank you for the example of Mary McLeod Bethune, for her love of learning, for her commitment to teach others, for her dedicated advocacy that improved the life of so many. Help us to be life long learners and patient teachers. Grant that our faith will continue to grow and deepen. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor May Kay Totty

Scripture Lesson - II Timothy 1:3-7

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Luke 2:41-46

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Hymn

Jesus' Parents Left the Temple

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette Tune: W ZLOBIE LEZY (Polish Carol)

¹ Jesus' parents left the Temple with a traveling caravan.

They were sure their son was with them as they left Jerusalem.

Soon they cried, "We cannot find him!"

He was somehow left behind them,

So they went to search for him.

² They went back and finally found him with the teachers of the Law.

What they witnessed was astounding! What a wondrous sight they saw.

For the questions he was raising

Showed his knowledge was amazing;

All who heard him were in awe.

⁴ God of Love, with earthly parents, Jesus listened, learned, and grew.

In the Temple, in your presence, he knew he was home with you.

We're reminded of his wisdom;

He already knew his mission

And the work that he would do.

Message

Disciples Learn

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Prayer of Confession

God of Mercy, forgive us when we would shut our ears and our minds and refuse to learn, forgive us when we close ourselves off from trying to understand other points of view. Amen and amen.

Time of Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

Pastor: Hear the good news! God is ever more ready to forgive than we are to confess.

We are forgiven.

People: **We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

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

Music for Prayer

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

² Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;

I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;

thou and thou only, first in my heart,

great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

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**Pam McConnell****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

Here I Am, Lord

UMH 593

¹I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

^R Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

²I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *(Refrain)*

³I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *(Refrain)*

Benediction**Pastor Mary Kay Totty****Postlude****Pam McConnell*****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