



**Welcome to Worship**  
**Sunday, February 28, 2020 — 10:30 a.m.**  
*Making Disciples Who Make a Difference  
in Seward and Beyond*



**Words of Welcome and Announcements:**

*See announcement flyer.*



**Prelude**

**Blessing** *(by Susan Ullom Berns)*

**Handbell Choir**

**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 Here am I, where underneath the bridges in our winter cities homeless people sleep.  
Here am I, where in decaying houses little children shiver, crying in the cold.  
Where are you?

2 Here am I, with people in the line up, anxious for a handout, aching for a job.  
Here am I, when pensioners and strikers sing and march together, wanting something new.  
Where are you?

3 Here am I, where two or three are gathered, ready to be altered, sharing wine and bread.  
Here am I, where those who hear the preaching change their way of living, find the way to life.  
Where are you?

### **Our Common Prayer**

God of the Least, Last, and Lost, we thank you for the example of Corrie ten Boom, for her bravery in sheltering Jewish people fleeing the nazi regime. She helped people even when it put herself and her family at risk. Take our hands and let us help those in need. Give us courage and faithfulness even in dangerous situations. Amen and amen.

### **Children's Time**

**Pastor Mary Kay Totty**

### **Scripture Lesson - Matthew 25:31-40**

<sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by God, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Christ, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And Christ will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

**Hymn****The Church of Christ, in Every Age****UMH 589**

<sup>1</sup> The church of Christ, in every age  
beset by change but Spirit led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.

<sup>2</sup> Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live until they die.

<sup>3</sup> Then let the servant church arise,  
a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

<sup>5</sup> We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord,  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread his liberating word.

**Message****Disciples Help****Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm****Prayer of Confession**

**God of Mercy, forgive us when we ignore the cries of those in need, forgive us when we look the other way rather than seeing the needs of those who are hurting. We confess that sometimes it is easier to keep going than to take the time to help another. 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****The Servant Song****TFWS 2222**

<sup>1</sup> Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

<sup>2</sup> We are pilgrims on a journey;  
we're together on this road.  
We are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

<sup>3</sup> I will hold the Christ light for you  
in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear

<sup>4</sup> I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.

**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](http://sewardumc.org) and click on the 'donate' button.*

## Offertory

**Gigue** (by Douglas E. Wagner)

**Handbell Choir**

## 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

### Go Make A Difference

<sup>c</sup> Go make a difference. We can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world.  
Go make a difference. We can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world.

<sup>1</sup> We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see  
the love of God in you and me.  
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen.  
Go make a difference in the world. (Chorus)

<sup>2</sup> We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need,  
the face of God for all to see.  
We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.  
Go make a difference in the world. (Chorus)

<sup>3</sup> So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.  
Go make a difference in the world.  
And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.  
Go make a difference in the world. (Chorus)

## Benediction

**Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm**

## Postlude

**Deb Snell**

### **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](mailto:umcseward@gmail.com) ~ Website: [www.sewardumc.org](http://www.sewardumc.org)  
Office hours: Flexible Right Now... call ahead