



Welcome to Worship
Sunday, March 7, 2020 — 8:00 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 in this place new light is streaming
 now is the darkness vanished away,
 see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
 brought here to you in the light of his day.
 Gather us in the lost and forsaken,
 Gather us in the blind and the lame;
 Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
 We shall arise at the sound of our name.

³ Here we will take the wine and the water,
 here we will take the break of new birth,
 here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
 Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
 Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
 Give us to eat the bread that is you;
 Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
 Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

² We are the young our lives are a myst'ry
 we are the old who yearn for your face,
 we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry
 called to beg light to the whole human race.
 Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
 gather us in the proud and the strong;
 give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
 give us the courage to enter the song.

⁴ Not in the dark of buildings confining,
 not in some heaven lightyears away,
 but here in this place the new light is shining
 now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
 Gather us in and hold us forever,
 gather us in and make us your own;
 gather us in all peoples together,
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Our Common Prayer

God, Ultimate Mystery, always greater than our knowing, we thank you for the example of Howard Thurman, for his commitment to a spirituality that was part of a life committed to making a difference. Ground our faith in lives of prayer, devotion, and meditation. Help each of us to find the spiritual practices that nurture us, soul and body. Amen and amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson - James 5:13-16

¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of God. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and God will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

Luke 11:1-4

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Rabbi, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ² He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,
 for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
 And do not bring us to the time of trial."

Hymn**What a Friend We Have in Jesus****UMH 526**

¹ What a friend we have in Jesus,
 all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 everything to God in prayer!
 O what peace we often forfeit,
 O what needless pain we bear,
 all because we do not carry
 everything to God in prayer.

² Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged;
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Can we find a friend so faithful
 who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our every weakness;
 take it to the Lord in prayer.

³ Are we weak and heavy laden,
 cumbered with a load of care?
 Precious Savior, still our refuge;
 take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Do thy friends despise for sake thee?
 Take it to the Lord in the prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
 thou wilt find a solace there.

Message**Disciples Pray****Pastor May Kay Totty****Prayer of Confession**

**God of Mercy, forgive us when we only turn to prayer as a last resort rather than as a first response.
 Forgive us those days that we neglect prayer and devotion time. 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.**

Seward UMC Foundation Sunday**Video Presentation**

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

Music for Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 270**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

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.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift our hearts to God.

L: Let us give thanks to God.

P: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

L: It is right and good and joyful thing to give God thanks and praise. We praise God in whose image we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We thank God for creation in all of its glory and diversity. We rejoice and give thanks for God's steadfast, abiding presence, always and everywhere working for good in the world.

We give thanks for disciples who have made a difference in our lives and in the world. We remember and celebrate Mary McLeod Bethune, Corrie Ten Boom, Howard Thurman, Sojourner Truth, Oscar Romero, and many others who followed Jesus faithfully. Grant that the lives of these disciples may inspire us and guide us in our faith journeys. When we turn away from you, O God, use your disciples to call us back home to you. Take our lives and make us your disciples. Help us to make a difference for good in our community and the wider world. Grant that we will become part of the great cloud of witnesses singing your praise with people on earth and all the company of heaven. So we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

P: Holy, holy, holy!

You are God of power and might,

Heaven and even earth are filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

L: Holy are you, O God, and blessed in your son, Jesus. At his baptism, your Holy Spirit declared Jesus beloved and sent him forth to preach good news, proclaim release to captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. Jesus called diverse, ordinary folks to follow him, to be his disciples — Peter, James, and John; Mary, Martha, and Joanna. The disciples accompanied Jesus to Jerusalem, watched as Jesus confronted powers and principalities. And they gathered with him for a final meal, his last supper.

At what was his last meal, Jesus did as he had done so many times. He took bread. He blessed the bread. He broke the bread. He shared the bread with all who were there. “Take, eat. This is the Bread of Life given for you.”

Later, Jesus took a cup of wine. He blessed the cup. He shared the cup with all who were there. “Drink from this all of you. Every time you do this, remember me. This is the cup of grace.”

In remembrance of all that God did through Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as disciples who commit to follow Jesus, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Whether in this space or connected via technology, unite us with your Spirit. Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in discipleship to this community and beyond, until the coming of the kingdom of God and we all feast at your heavenly banquet. Through your son, the first disciple Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours Gracious and Loving God, now and forever.

All: Amen and amen.

Partaking of Communion

Hymn

Go Ye, Go Ye Into the World

TFWS 2239

¹ Go ye, go ye into the world, and make disciples of all the nations.

Go ye, go ye into the world, and I will be with you there!

² Go ye, go ye into the world, and take the gospel to all the people.

Go ye, go ye into the world, and I will be with you there!

³ Go ye, go ye into the world, and tell the story to all believers.

Go ye, go ye into the world, and I will be with you there!

Benediction

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Pam McConnell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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