



**Welcome to Worship**  
**Sunday, March 7, 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: 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.**

## Hymn

## My Feet Are on the Rock

<sup>1</sup> I can see the clouds roll in  
I can feel the winds they try to shake me  
I will not be moved my feet are on the Rock

<sup>2</sup> I can feel the waters rise  
I can hear the howling lies that haunt me  
Fear won't hold me now my feet are on the Rock (C)

<sup>C</sup> When I feel my hope about to break  
I will cling to Your unchanging grace  
Let the waters come and the earth give way  
I'll be dancing in the rain  
My feet are on the Rock

<sup>3</sup> I can see the morning light  
I can feel the joy on the horizon  
Here my faith is found I stand on solid ground (C)

<sup>B</sup> On Christ the solid Rock I stand  
all other ground is sinking sand  
so stomp your feet and clap your hands  
our feet are on the rock

## 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

<sup>13</sup> Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.  
<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> The prayer of faith will save the sick, and God will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> 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." <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>c</sup> What a friend we've found  
What a friend we've found  
What a friend we've found in You, Jesus

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

**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 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 Mary Kay Totty**

**Postlude**

**Megan Forbes**

### ***The People of God Go Forth to Serve***

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