

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

April 11, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude

Dylan Teut

Call to Worship

L: Whoever you are, whatever you do, wherever you're from, whomever you love, whatever you believe or doubt, welcome to worship.

P: We come just as we are -- a mixture of saint and sinner.

L: Here, in this time, may you become aware of the presence of God.

P: We seek grace. We long for peace.

L: As we worship together, may our love for each other and all our neighbors increase.

P: May this time of worship help us follow Jesus more faithfully and lovingly.

Hymn

Walls Mark Our Boundaries

¹Walls mark our boundaries and keep us apart;
walls keep the world from our eyes and our heart.
Tables are round making room for one more,
welcoming friends we had not known before. *(R)*

²Walls make us sure who is in and who's out;
walls keep us safe from all question and doubt.
but at a table in open exchange
new ties are formed as our lives rearrange. *(R)*

^RSo build us a table and tear down the wall!
Christ is our host. There is room - for us all!

Common Prayer

God of Community and Possibility, so much of society urges us to see the world in terms of who is in and who is out, who to include and who to exclude. Remind us that all people are your beloved children. Teach to care for all people even as Jesus cared for all. Help us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 133

UMH 850

R Unite us, God, unite us by your everlasting love.

C Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when we live together in unity!

**P: It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes!**

C: It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!

**P: For there God has commanded God's blessing,
life forevermore. (R)**

Romans 12:14-21

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Hymn

Christ Is Alive

UMH 318

¹ Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.

² Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and dwell in every place and time.

⁴ In every insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.

⁵ Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and all creation ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Sermon

Unity, not Uniformity

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

The Prayers of the People

Please share your joys or concerns at the microphone or in the comments on Facebook or by texting us at 402-810-8900.

Prayer Hymn

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

TFWS 2232

¹ Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one body
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

² Come now, O God of Love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

⁴ Come Hope of Unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

Doxology

Dylan Teut

UMH 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts,
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit,

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sabbath Leave Sending Forth of Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

and Welcoming of Pastor Jen Davidson

Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, thank you for sharing Jesus with us. Thank you for choosing us to carry on the work Jesus did. We bring our offerings to help in that work. Bless the offerings that they can do good in our town and all around the world. Help us to be better disciples every day. Amen.

(adapted from "Bread for the Journey" p. 48)

Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

TFWS 2223

¹ We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

^R And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

² We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: *(R)*

³ We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: *(R)*

⁴ All praise to our Creator, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: *(R)*

Benediction

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Dylan Teut

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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