

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

April 25, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Greeting

Passing of the Peace

Call To Worship

L: Today is a new day!

P: We come with the past behind us, and the future open. We come to celebrate the new life Christ brings.

L: Christ is with us!

P: Christ is with us indeed!

(Flames of the Spirit, p.41)

Hymn

The King of Love

¹The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am God's,
and God is mine forever.

²Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul God leadeth;
and where the verdant pasture grow,
with food celestial feedeth. (C)

^cNever failing Ruler of my heart, everlasting Lover of my soul.
On the mountain high, or in the valley low, the King of love my Shepherd is,
the King of love my Shepherd is.

³ Lost and foolish, off I strayed
but yet in love God sought me
And on God's shoulder gently laid
and home rejoicing brought me. (C)

⁵ And so though all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd may I sing your praise
within your house forever, within your house forever.

Common Prayer (unison)

Loving God, who reaches out to restore our souls, touch us now with your word of truth. May the familiar phrases of scripture draw us back into a vital relationship with you and all your children. Lead us in paths of righteousness that we may show your love in conversation and action. Amen.
(Whispers of God, p. 81)

Children's Time

Pastor Jen Davidson

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 23

TFWS 2058

^R Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

C: God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. (R)

C: Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. (R)

C: Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. (R)

C: You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my power to hold. (R)

C: Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. (R)

John 10:14-16

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as God knows me and I know God. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

1 O Thou, in whose presence my soul takes delight
 on home in affliction I call,
 my comfort by day and my song in the night,
 my hope, my salvation, my all!

2 Where dost thou, dear Shepherd, resort with thy sheep,
 to feed them in pastures of love?
 Say, why in the valley of death should I weep,
 or alone in this wilderness rove?

3 O why should I wander, an alien from thee,
 or cry in the desert for bread?
 Thy foes will rejoice when my sorrows they see,
 and smile at the tears I have shed.

4 Restore, my dear Savior, the light of thy face,
 thy soul-cheering comfort impart;
 and let the sweet tokens of pardoning grace
 bring joy to my desolate heart.

Sermon

The Shepherd Knows What the Sheep Need

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Litany of Response based on Psalm 23 *(by Steve Brown)*

P: The LORD is my shepherd

C: God, thank you for this relationship

P: I shall not be in want

C: God, thank you for supplying my needs

P: He makes me lie down in green pastures

C: God, thank you for providing me with rest

P: he leads me beside quiet waters

C: God, thank you for refreshing me

P: he restores my soul

C: God, thank you for healing me

P: He guides me in paths of righteousness

C: God, thank you for providing your word as a guide in my life

P: for his name's sake

C: God, thank you for providing a purpose and direction for my life

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

C: God, you know just how much testing is right for me

P: I will fear no evil

C: God, thank you for your protection
P: for you are with me
C: God, thank you for being with me
P: your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
C: God, thank you for discipline when I need it
P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies
C: God, thank you for being my protector
P: You anoint my head with oil
C: God, thank you for anointing me
P: my cup overflows
C: God, thank you for abundant blessings
P: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life
C: God, thank you for continual blessings
P: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever
C: God, thank you for eternity

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

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

TFWS 2195

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

Megan Forbes

Doxology

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!

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**Goodness, Love, and Mercy**

O God, you're my Shepherd, you make me lie in fields of green.
You lead me by still waters; you restore righteousness to me.
Though I walk through the valley I will fear no evil thing,
for you are with me, and you comfort me.

^R Surely goodness, love, and mercy will follow wherever I go (3x)

^B I'm gonna dwell in the house of our God forever (3x)

Benediction**Pastor Mary Kay Totty****Postlude****Megan Forbes*****The People of God Go Forth to Serve***

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