

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

May 16, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.

Celebrating our Graduates



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Handbell Choir

Passing of the Peace

Call To Worship

L: Congregations, families of faith, show up for each other at significant times in life.

P: We mark the milestones and support one another in both good and hard times.

L: We mark milestones of birth, baptism, birthdays, confirmation, graduation, marriage, promotions, anniversaries, retirement, and death.

P: Over the years we have learned the truth of the old adage: sorrow shared is halved, joy shared is doubled.

L: This day we celebrate the significant milestone for seven of our young adults, high school graduation.

P: We pray that each graduate may flourish as life unfolds for them. May they stay close to God in all that they do.

¹ Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
 naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

² Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
 I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou and thou only, first in my heart,
 great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

³ Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still by my vision, O Ruler of all.

Common Prayer (unison)

God of Wisdom and Learning, we give thanks for this year's class of high school graduates -- for those we know personally from here in Seward and for all those across this country. We pray for the well-being of each graduate this day and all the days ahead of them. Guide us all to be our best selves. Keep alive in everyone a love of learning and growing. Help each of us to shape our lives in keeping with your will. Amen and amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jen Davidson

Inspirational Lesson

"The Call"

by George Herbert (1633)

"Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
 Such a way, as gives us breath:
 Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
 Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
 Such a Light, as shows a feast:
 Such a Feast, as mends in length:
 Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
 Such a Joy, as none can move:
 Such a Love, as none can part:
 Such a Heart, as joys in love.

Scripture Lesson - John 14:1-7

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In God's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Rabbi, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to God except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know God also. From now on you do know God and have seen God."

Special Music

Follow the Way of the Lord

Chancel Choir

Sermon

Follow the Way

Pastor Mary May Totty

Recognition of the Graduates

Graduation Litany

We are gathered together
to celebrate the accomplishments of members of our community.

**We give blessings to you for all that you have achieved
and many more achievements yet to come.**

One part of your life's journey is complete.
You will prepare to begin another phase
that will take you to unimaginable places.

As you prepare for your next journey,
we hope that you remember the ones you leave behind,
who have loved and supported you throughout the years.

**We give you blessings of good will and love
as you journey forth into the world.
We thank you for the laughter and fellowship
that you have shared with us
and pray that as you begin your next journey,
remember the times that we all have shared with you.**

Use those memories as a beacon to guide you on your path.
Don't look back; continue only forward,
while using those memories to create a new path.

**We pray that God will give you strength and determination
to develop new relationships that will help to strengthen
and sustain your faith.**

Because we are made in the image of God
we have been blessed with free will to make choices and decisions.

**We pray that you make wise and rational decisions,
always turning to God for help.
God hears, God listens, God is always with you.
Do not forget that.
Always keep in mind that God is around
and if you turn to him, he will guide you.**

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 and See

TFWS 2127

¹“Come and see, come and see, I am the way and truth,” said he.
“Follow me, follow me, come as a child, O come and see.”

² Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
Christe, Christe, Christe eleison.

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

Offertory

Standing On the Promises

Handbell Choir

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 Spirt, Holy Spirit,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

Put these gifts, and our time and talents, to work in the world for your purposes, O God. Grant to us the capacity to move beyond good intentions to give ourselves completely to making a difference in your name. Amen.

Hymn

Lead Me, Guide Me

TFWS 2214

^RLead me, guide me, along the way,
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with you.
Lead me my whole life through.

¹ I am weak and I need thy strength and power
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see
Lead me, O Lord, Lead me. (R)

² Help me tread the paths of righteousness
Be my aid when satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee
Lead me, O Lord, Lead me. (R)

Benediction

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Deb Snell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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Prayer of Dedication adapted from "Fresh Winds of the Spirit", Lavon Bayler, p. 115

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Holy Bible, © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States

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