

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

May 30, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.

Memorial Day



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude

Dylan Teut

Passing of the Peace

Call To Worship

L: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

P: **We give you thanks, O God.**

L: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

P: **We give you thanks, O God.**

L: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

P: **We give you thanks, O God.**

L: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

P: **We give you thanks, O God.**

¹ O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

² O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

³ O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law.

Common Prayer (unison)

God, we come with Taps in our hearts
remembering those who have died for others,
soldiers, sailors, air corps, in this country and others,
remembering those who risk life for others,
coast guard, firefighter, law enforcement,
both near and far away,
remembering those who go forth
in emergency response, disaster relief,
and aid to victims of war,
remembering those who witness for justice
in the face of opposition,
and remembering our own losses –
some, fresh wounds,
some, long-familiar sadnesses.
Day is come, not just one,
but a year full of dawns
in the east.
While some rest, we are blest,
given peace. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jen Davidson

Scripture Lesson - Galatians 5:13-23 (NRSV)

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Hymn

O God of Every Nation

UMH 435

¹ O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.

² From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.

⁴ Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

Sermon

Remember & Never Forget

Pastor Mary May Totty

Litany of Response

- L: We remember that Memorial Day began when Confederate war widows decorated the far-from-home graves of Union soldiers.
- P: We remember – and pray for those who grieve on all sides of a conflict.**
- L: We remember that Memorial Day also began at Charleston's Washington Race Course when newly freed slaves honored prisoners of war.
- P: We remember – and pray for people everywhere who are seeking freedom or living with the loss of freedom.**
- L: We remember that May 30 was chosen for Memorial Day because it was one day that did not commemorate a particular battle.
- P: We remember – and pray for a time when every day is an anniversary of peace.**
- L: We remember and memorialize not only those in combat, but nurses, stretcher bearers, conscientious objectors, and those who bear home front burdens.
- P: We remember – and pray to be aware of the gifts of many in our common causes.**
- L: We remember Christmas Eve truces and paper cranes, amnesties and poppies, folded flags and the desperate need of veterans for gratitude made real in support.

P: We remember — and pray for a memorial-izing, not confined to a holiday but alive in the spirits of young and old, enlisted and civilian, brand new Americans and those with deep hometown-roots, people of every faith, no faith and people willing to leave their politics outside the door in order to embrace everyone.

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

Trinity Song

^C Holy Father, Son, and Spirit
Holy Communion, Three in One.

^V Come with Your peace, with Your invitation.
Bind us together in holy love.

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

Offertory

I Can Only Imagine

Barbara Lemmon & Megan Forbes

Doxology

UMH 95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

TFWS 2173

¹ Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me. (C)

³ As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. (C)

^C Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire;
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Benediction

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Dylan Teut

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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