

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

August 15, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.



From
Our Past...

Summer 2021 Worship Series
"The Tree of Life"

...Will Come
Our Future

Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Deb Snell

Passing of the Peace

Call To Worship

L: Let us give thanks for our faith ancestors who established a Methodist and a United Brethren presence in Seward as far back at the middle of the 19th century.

P: **Thanks be for those faith ancestors.**

L: Let us give thanks for the 1968 union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church as a denomination, and also locally to form the United Methodist Church of Seward.

P: **Thanks be for this union.**

L: "From our past will come our future." Let us give thanks for our history which has brought us to this day.

P: **Thanks be for our history.**

1. Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord,
and thus surround the throne.

2. Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad.

3. The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
or walk the golden streets.

4. Then let our songs abound,
and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground
to fairer worlds on high

Common Prayer

God of Past, Present, and Future, we give thanks for the ones who established churches and passed down faith in Jesus to those of us who are the congregation of Seward United Methodist this day. May we learn from our past, may we be faithful in our present, and may we prepare with creativity for our future. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all our ministries. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 1

1 Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
2 but their delight is in the law of God.
And on this law they meditate day and night.

3 They are like trees of water,
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither
in all that they do, they prosper.

4 The wicked are not so.
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous
6 for God watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Revelation 22:1-3

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there are any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and God's servants will worship God.

Hymn

O Blessed Spring

UMH 384

¹ O blessed spring,— where Word and sign
embrace us in — to Christ the Vine:
here Christ enjoins — each one to be
a branch of this — life giving Tree.

² Through summer heat — and youthful years,
uncertain faith,— rebellious tears,
sustained by Christ's — infusing rain,
the boughs will shout — for joy again.

³ When autumn cools — and youth is cold,
when limbs their heav — y har-vest hold
then through us warm, — the Christ will move
with gifts of beau — ty, wisdom, love.

⁴ As winter comes, — as winters must
we breath our last, — re-turn to dust;
still held in Christ, — our souls take wing
and trust the prom — ise of the spring.

⁵ Christ, holy Vine, — Christ, living Tree,
be praised for this — blest mystery:
that Word and wa — ter thus re - vive
and join us to — your Tree of Life.

Sermon

Tree of Life

Rev. 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

Hymn of Promise

UMH 707, v. 2

¹ In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

² There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see

³ In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

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

Offertory

Deb Snell

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

We remember and give thanks for those who came before us. We are grateful for their generosity which enables us to gather for worship this day. Holy One, help each of us to be as generous as those who have gone before that we, too, might make a difference in this congregation and community. Amen.

Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

UMH 428

¹ For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords;
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.

² Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase

³ All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span,
may we hallow life's brief span.

⁴ You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find,
earth its destiny may find.

Benediction

Rev. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Deb Snell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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