

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

August 15, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

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.

Hymn

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

C Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

1 The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

2 You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

3 And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

E Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name

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

Blessing of the Backpacks

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

The 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

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

Sarah Rodocker

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

Hosanna

1 Praise is rising
Eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring
Hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

2 Heart the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your Kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make us new

Pre-Chorus
'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
(Washed away)

C Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Ending
Hosanna hosanna

Benediction

Rev. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Sarah Rodocker

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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