

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

August 22, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Pam McConnell

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship

L: The Methodist movement began through the faithful efforts of John and Charles Wesley who sought to bring greater intentionality to how they lived as followers of Jesus.

P: May John's sermons and Charles' hymns continue to inspire us today.

L: Our Wesleyan heritage continues to shape the theological themes of our church — themes of grace, accountability, learning, community, and social justice.

P: We give thanks for the Wesley brothers and their ongoing legacy of faith.

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great redeemer’s praise,
The glories ever echoing
The triumphs of God’s grace!
2. My gracious savior and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of your name.
3. Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner’s ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.
5. You speak and list’ning to your voice
New life the dead receive,
The mournful broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.

Common Prayer (in unison)

Holy and Loving God, we give thanks this day for the gift of music — for word and song and melody that take root deep inside us. We give thanks for the Wesleyan hymns of faith handed down through the centuries, many which continue to resonate with beauty and truth even now. Enable us to sing with gusto. Let the words remind us of both your love for us all and your call upon each of our lives to follow the example of Jesus in whose name we pray. Amen.

Introduction to the Lessons and Hymns**Lesson 1 John Wesley — from “Directions for Singing” Rick McConnell**

“Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength... Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before or stay behind it; but attend closely to the leading voices, and move

therewith as exactly as you can; and take care to not sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out of us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.”

Hymn

“Maker, in Whom We Live”

UMH 88

1. Maker, in whom we live, in whom we are and move,
The glory, power, and praise receive for thy creating love.
Let all the angel throng give thanks to God on high,
While earth repeats the joyful song and echoes to the sky.
2. Incarnate Deity, let all the ransomed race
Render in thanks their lives to thee for thy redeeming grace.
The grace to sinners showed ye heavenly choirs proclaim,
And cry, “Salvation to our God, salvation to the Lamb!”
3. Spirit of Holiness, let all thy saints adore
Thy sacred energy, and bless thine heart renewing power.
Not angel tongues can tell thy love’s ecstatic height,
The glorious joy unspeakable, the beatific sight.
4. Eternal Triune God, let all the hosts above,
Let all on earth below record and dwell upon thy love.
When heaven and earth are fled before the glorious face,
Sing all the saints thy love hath made thine everlasting praise

Lesson 2 John Wesley — from Sermon 77

Rick McConnell

“As the true God, God is likewise the Preserver of all things. God not only keeps them in being, but preserves them in that degree of well-being which is suitable to their several natures. God preserves them in their several relations, connexions, and dependencies, so as to compose one system of beings, to form one entire universe, according to the counsel of God’s will. How strongly and beautifully is this expressed: ‘By whom all things consist.’ Or more literally, ‘By and in God are all things compacted into one system.’ God is not only the support, but also the cement, of the whole universe.”

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ the true, the only light;
Sun of Righteousness, arise triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near, Daystar, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy beams I see;
Till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Lesson 3 John Wesley — from Sermon 139 “On Love” Rev. Mary Kay Totty

"Love is kind." Whosoever feels the love of God and neighbor shed abroad in their heart, feels an ardent and uninterrupted thirst after the happiness of all fellow-creatures. Their soul melts away with the very fervent desire which they have continually to promote it; and out of the abundance of the heart their mouth speaks. In their tongue is the law of kindness. The same is impressed on all their actions. The flame within is continually working itself away, and spreading abroad more and more, in every instance of good-will to all with whom they have to do. So that whether they think or speak, or whatever they do, it all points to the same end, -- the advancing, by every possible way, the happiness of all fellow-creatures. Deceive not, therefore, your own souls: They who are not thus kind, have not love.

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Lesson — John Wesley — Sermon 12**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

God has made us thinking beings, capable of perceiving what is present, and of reflecting or looking back on what is past. In particular, we are capable of perceiving whatsoever passes in our own hearts or lives; of knowing whatsoever we feel or do; and that either while it passes, or when it is past. This we mean when we say, a human is a conscious being: Humans have a consciousness, or inward perception, both of things present and past, relating to themselves, of their own tempers and outward behavior. But what we usually term conscience, implies somewhat more than this. It is not barely the knowledge of our present or the remembrance of our preceding life. To remember, to bear witness either of past or present things, is only one, and the least office of conscience: Its main business is to excuse or accuse, to approve or disapprove, to acquit or condemn.

Hymn**“O Come and Dwell in Me”****UMH 388**

1. O come and dwell in me,
Spirit of power within,
and bring the glorious liberty
from sorrow, fear, and sin.

4. I ask no higher state;
indulge me but in this,
and soon or later then translate
to thine eternal bliss.

Lesson — John Wesley from his essay “A Plain Account of Christian Perfection”**Rev. Mary Kay Totty**

"This great gift of God, the salvation of our souls, is no other than the image of God fresh stamped on our hearts. It is a `renewal of believers in the spirit of their minds, after the likeness of God that created them.' God hath now laid `the axe unto the root of the tree, purifying their hearts by faith,' and `cleansing all the thoughts of their hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.' Having this hope, that they shall see God as God is, they `purify themselves even as God is pure,' and are `holy, as God that hath called them is holy, in all manner of conversation.' Not that they have already attained all that they shall attain, either are already in this sense perfect. But they daily `go on from strength to strength; beholding' now, `as in a glass, the glory of God, they are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, by the Spirit of God.'

Recognition of Musicians

Hymn

“I Want a Principle Within”

UMH 410

1. I want a principle within of watchful, godly fear,
A sensibility of sin, a pain to feel it near.
I want the first approach to feel of pride or wrong desire,
To catch the wand’ring of my will, and quench the kindling fire.

Lesson — John Wesley from Sermon 36

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

“And by faith, taken in its more particular meaning, for a confidence in a pardoning God, we establish holy law in our own hearts in a still more effectual manner. For there is no motive which so powerfully inclines us to love God, as the sense of the love of God in Christ. Nothing enables us like a piercing conviction of this to give our hearts to Christ who was given for us. And from this principle of grateful love to God arises love to our brother and sister also. Neither can we avoid loving our neighbor, if we truly believe the love wherewith God hath loved us. Now this love, grounded on faith and love to God, "works no ill to" our "neighbor." ... Neither is love content with barely working no evil to our neighbour. It continually incites us to do good, as we have time and opportunity; to do good, in every possible kind, and in every possible degree, to all people.

Hymn

“Jesus, Thine All-Victorious Love”

UMH 422

1. Jesus, thine all-victorious love shed in my heart abroad;
then shall my feet no longer rove, rooted and fixed in God.
2. O that in me the sacred fire might now begin to glow;
burn up the dross of base desire and make the mountains flow!
3. O that it now from heaven might fall and all my sins consume!
Come, Holy Ghost, for thee I call, Spirit of burning come!
4. Refining fire, go through my heart, illuminate my soul;
scatter thy life through every part and sanctify the whole.

The Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn**“Jesus, United by Thy Grace”****UMH 561**

1. Jesus, united by thy grace
and each to each endeared,
with confidence we seek thy face
and know our prayer is heard.

2. Help us to help each other, Lord,
each other's cross to bear;
let all their friendly aid afford,
and feel each other's care.

4. Touched by the lodestone of thy love,
let all our hearts agree,
and ever toward each other move,
and ever move toward thee.

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

Offertory**Pam McConnell****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

It is with joy that we offer our time, talent, and treasure. Help us to be good stewards of all we have and all that we are, so we may be Jesus hands' and feet, here and now.
Amen.

Lesson — John Wesley — from “Instructions for Singing” Rev. Mary Kay Totty

“Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing God more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the

sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as God will approve..."

Hymn

Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

UMH 438

1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.
2. The task thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.
3. Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes mine inmost substance see,
and labor on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.
4. For thee delightfully employ
what e'er thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven.

Benediction

Rev. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Pam McConnell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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