

# Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

October 31, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.



*Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.*

## Welcome and Announcements

## Presentation by SPRC

## Prelude

Dylan Teut

## Peace of Christ Blessing

## Call to Worship:

*(adapted from Tirabasi, "Touch Holiness", p. 101)*

L: Many have walked the path toward God before us, showing us the way with their lives.

**P: We come to give thanks for them.**

L: As they were called, so are we called to live as Jesus did, answering the call of God, saying, "Here I am! Send me."

**P: We come to ask for guidance and courage.**

L: We are, each of us, like those who have gone before us, a strange mixture of saint and sinner. God accepts us that way and fills us with the Spirit, who empowers us to act.

**P: We come to worship the Holy God.**

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
to the throne thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore God's praises sing.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise the Lord for grace and favor  
to all people in distress;  
praise God, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious now God's faithfulness.

3. Father-like, God tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame God knows;  
mother-like, God gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely yet God's mercy flows.

4. Angels in the heights, adoring,  
you behold God face to face;  
saints triumphant, now adoring,  
gathered in from every race.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

**Common Prayer** (*S. Griffith, 2019*)

O Giver of Life, hold us in life.  
The world is full of terror, but also of beauty,  
full of hatred, but also of love,  
full of violence, but also of caring.  
Help us to see ourselves and one another as you see us.  
Let us be instruments of peace.  
Stir in us the impulse to love in the face of hate.  
Bring light in the midst of darkness;  
and fill us with courage to stand with each other  
and all those who are grieving and hurting.  
Help us to move beyond rhetoric and reaction  
to purposeful action that brings healing and enhances life.  
Give us strength to speak out against injustice  
in whatever form it presents itself,  
and wisdom to find a way toward justice and peace.  
May we stand hand in hand,

and work side by side,  
'til all recognize and honor the dignity and sacred worth of every person.  
And may all we say and do be blessing and compassion and peace.  
Amen and amen.

## **Children's Time**

**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

## **Scripture Lessons**

**Proverbs 10: 7** "The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot."

### **Romans 8:31-39**

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> God who did not withhold God's own Son, but gave Jesus up for all of us, will God not with Christ also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through God who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Hymn**

### **For All the Saints**

**TFWS 2283**

<sup>1</sup> For all the saints who've shown your love  
in how they live and where they move,  
for mindful women, carrying men,  
accept our gratitude again.

<sup>2</sup> For all the saints who loved your name,  
whose faith increased the Savior's fame,  
who sang your songs and shared your word,  
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

<sup>3</sup> For all the saints who named your will,  
and showed the kingdom coming still  
through selfless protest, prayer, and praise,  
accept the gratitude we raise.

<sup>4</sup> Bless all whose will or name or love  
reflects the grace of heaven above.  
Though unclaimed by earthly powers,  
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

## **Sermon**

**"May Their Memory Be a Blessing"**

**Pastor Mary Kay Totty**

## **Time of Remembering the Saints**

*Photos of those connected to our faith community will be shared on the screen. As the photo is shared, the persons name will be read aloud and a candle will be lit in their memory and honor.*

## **Prayer of Those Who Died in Tragic Circumstances** *(adapted from "Out of the Ordinary" by Joyce Rupp, p. 42)*

Leader: We unite in compassion with all souls and who have died and who may not yet be at peace.

Let us pray for

...those who have taken their own lives or caused their own deaths,  
...those who died due to violence or brutal aggression,  
...those who failed to reconcile their anger and remained alienated,  
...those who have been executed for heinous crimes,  
...those killed extra judicially without trial or due process,  
...those who fought death and refused to be comforted,  
...those whose ego-focused decisions led to the deaths of others,  
...those killed in car crashes caused by substance abuse or recklessness,  
...those who raged against others and died with hate in their hearts,  
...all other souls who died in distress.

**ALL: Merciful One, it is not for us to judge those who have died. Rather, we come to you with the assurance of your great compassion. We unite with these wounded brothers and sisters of ours and believe that you draw all to your forgiving heart. May the love we bear be encouragement for all souls winging their way home to you. Thank you for your unconditional love for all you have created.**

**Amen.**

## **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**

### **You Love, O God**

**UMH 120**

1 Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,  
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.  
You leave us free to seek you or reject you,  
you give us room to answer "yes" or "no."

Refrain:

Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,  
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.

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

### **Offertory**

**Dylan Teut**

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** (*Revelation 7:9-17, UMC Discipleship*)

God of all generations, as we worship today, we offer our whole selves to you, all that we have and all that we are. Like your saints who have gone before us, we pray that you will help us be bold in our mission and in our witness. May we who have been given so much give freely, ministering in your compassion to the multitudes near to us and far from us; so that one day we may stand amidst the multitude that gathers at your heavenly throne. We pray this in the name of our Savior and Redeemer, Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Closing Hymn — For All the Saints** (*UMH 711*)

<sup>1</sup>For all the saints, who from their labors rest;  
who thee by faith before the world confessed;  
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest;  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

<sup>2</sup>Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;  
thou, God, their shelter, in the stormy night;  
thou, in the darkness drear their one true light;  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

<sup>3</sup>The golden evening brightens in the west;  
soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest;  
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest;  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

<sup>4</sup>But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:  
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
they sing to God, and dance along the way;  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

<sup>5</sup>O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine;  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Benediction**

**Pastor Mary Kay Totty**

**Postlude**

**Dylan Teut**

***The People of God Go Forth to Serve***

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*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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