

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

October 31, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Presentation by SPRC

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.

Hymn

Our God

Verse 1

Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You
None like You

Verse 2

Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You

Chorus

Our God is greater
Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer
Awesome in power our God our God

Bridge

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
(Then) what could stand against

CCLI Song # 5677416

Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves | Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman

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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

Special Music

Joyful, Joyful

Youth Handchimes

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

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

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

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through God who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

4Bless 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

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 (*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*)

¹For 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!

²Thou 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!

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

⁴But 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!

⁵O 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

Megan Forbes

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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