

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

November 14, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Prelude

Jubilee! by Arnold Sherman

Handbell Choir

Call to Worship (from "Touch Holiness" by Ruth C. Duck and Maren Tirabassi, p. 175)

L: We have encountered the Word, calling us into communion with God and with each other.

P: And calling us into discipleship to carry on Christ's work in our world.

L: So we come together, here, joining hands in the great quest:

P: To worship God, to love each other, and to serve the world.

Hymn

Let's Sing unto the Lord

UMH 149

1. Let's sing unto the Lord
A hymn of glad rejoicing.
Let's sing a hymn of love,
At the new day's fresh beginning
God made the sky above,
The stars, the sun, the oceans;
And God saw it was good,
For those works were filled with beauty.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let's sing unto the Lord.
Alleluia!

2. Let's sing unto the Lord
A hymn of adoration,
Which shows our love and faith
And the hope of all creation.
Through all that has been made,
The Lord is praised for greatness,
And so we sing to God,
Who bestows such lovely blessings.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let's sing unto the Lord.
Alleluia!
Let's sing unto the Lord.
Alleluia!

Common Prayer (in unison) (from "Touch Holiness by Ruth C. Duck and Maren Tirabassi, p. 106)

Holy Spirit of God, who gathers the church into one body, gather us once again in your presence and strengthen the bonds of affection that hold your people together. Bless us with grace to cooperate with one another in love and service that we may be the signs of your uniting love to our fractured world. Teach us to show compassion for those in need, to face challenges with imagination, and to counter disappointments with prayerful trust. So may your church bring forth your will and your reign. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Special Music

Beautiful One Arr. by Bill Engram

Handbell Choir

Scripture Lessons

Mark 4:26-29 (New Revised Standard Version)

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

UMH 92

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;

2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light; (Refrain)

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight; (Refrain)

4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild (Refrain)

5. For thy church, that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love; (Refrain)

6. For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven: (Refrain)

Sermon

Are We Growing?

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Hymn

Come Ye Thankful People

UMH 694 v. 1 & 2

1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

2. All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

Prayer of Response

O Lord, you have given us the gift of land.

May we ever protect and preserve it.

O Lord, you have given us the gift of water.

May we keep it pure and safe.

O Lord, you have given us the gift of air.

May we keep it pure and fresh.

O Lord, you have given us the gift of plants and trees.

May we ever use and protect them justly.

O Lord, you have given us the gift of birds and animals.

May we preserve and enjoy them.

O Lord, you have given us care of the earth.

O Lord, we accept the care of these gifts as our sacred stewardship.

Amen.

(MELVIN E. WEST, U.S.A., 20TH CENT.)

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

Give Thanks

TFWS 2036

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, God's Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, God's Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong";
Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."
And now let the weak say, "I am strong";
Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, God's Son.
Give thanks!

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

Offertory

Dylan Teut

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 (from "Touch Holiness" by Ruth C. Duck and Maren Tirabassi, p. 214)

O God, through the offering of these gifts may we become a more open people...
open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom,
open-hearted in healing a broken world,
open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.
With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves.
Amen.

Hymn

You Are the Seed

UMH 583

¹You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you're a star that will shine in the night;
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the dark.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
my witnesses where e'er you go. *Refrain*

²You are the flame that will lighten the dark,
sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love;
you are the shepherds to lead the whole world
through valleys and pastures of peace.
You are the friends that I chose for myself,
the word that I want to proclaim.
You are the new kingdom built on a rock
where justice and truth always reign. *Refrain*

Refrain

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be my friends, a loyal witness from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world.

³You are the life that will nurture the plant;
you're the waves in a turbulent sea;
yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
A new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
nor a mountain can cover its might;
may your good deeds show a world in despair
A path that will lead all to God. *Refrain*

Benediction

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

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,
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