

# Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

November 28, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.

Advent I



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

## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude**

**Dylan Teut**

## Passing of the Peace

### Call to Worship:

L: Welcome to this first day of Advent.

**P: We gather in anticipation of the journey to Bethlehem. We await the telling of the well-loved story.**

L: This Advent we will engage our whole selves in this worshipful, waiting season.

**P: With body, mind, and spirit we embrace this time.**

L: Let faith steep through all our festivities, making sacred each moment.

**P: Our hearts are ready, our minds open and our senses alert for the scent of hope.**

**Hymn**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**UMH 211**

1. O come, O come, Emanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear (R)

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and cause us in her ways to go. (R)

### Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. (R)

7. O come, Desire of nations bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind  
From dust thou brought us forth to life  
deliver us from earthly strife. (R)

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader 1: Long ago hope wafted unbidden into a broken world.  
Unbidden, God's persistent, prevenient grace hounds us.  
Possibility now dwells with despair  
Heads lift, knees strengthen  
We turn our hearts to Bethlehem.

Reader 2: Thus Advent begins and we prepare body, mind, and spirit to welcome again our Messiah. We light the first candle with the theme, "The Scent of Hope," remembering that when our awareness dawns, God has already been at work in our lives. This Advent we commit ourselves to fulfilling each day the Great Commandment.

**All: I will love God with all my heart, all my soul, all my mind, and all my strength.  
Amen.**

**HYMN**

**For the Beauty of the Earth**

**UMH 92, v. 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;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this hymn of grateful praise.

**Common Prayer:** Keeper of the Stars, Source of Breath and Being, You are with us before we even come to awareness of our need for You. As a mere whiff of baking bread sparks our unknown hunger; Advent's scent of hope stirs up our yearning for our Savior. We wait as did your people of old for our Messiah. Grant that we might recognize your presence and make you welcome in all aspects of our lives. In the name of Christ. AMEN.

**Children's Time**

**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

## Scripture Lessons

Ephesians 5: 1-2

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Luke 1: 5-24

<sup>5</sup>In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of God. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup>Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of God and offer incense. <sup>10</sup>Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup>Then there appeared to him an angel of God, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When he saw the angel, Zechariah was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you

will name him John. <sup>14</sup>You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of God. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup>He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the messiah.” <sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” <sup>19</sup>The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

<sup>21</sup>Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary.

<sup>22</sup>When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. <sup>23</sup>When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

<sup>24</sup>After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion.

### Hymn

### Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

UMH 216

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
as those of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright  
Amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the Rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere.  
True man yet very God,  
from sin and death now save us,  
and share our every load.

### Sermon

### Scent of Hope

Rev. Dr. 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

### Into My Heart

TFWS 2160

<sup>1</sup>Into my heart,  
Into my heart,  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Come in today,  
Come in to stay,  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

<sup>2</sup>Out of my heart,  
Out of my heart,  
Shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Shine out today  
Shine out today  
Shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus

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

**Offertory**

**Dylan Teut**

**Doxology**

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**UMH 94**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!  
Praise the Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, we seek to put all we are into this time of preparation that we might fully receive our Messiah into our lives. No half-hearted celebrations, no lukewarm commitments; but a generous, joyous, enthusiastic offering of our whole being we bring to you this day. We dedicate ourselves and these monetary offerings to your work and service. In Christ's name. Amen.

**Hymn**

**Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates**

**UMH 213**

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here!

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come, with us abide;  
our hearts to thee we open wide;  
let us thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in us reveal.

4 Thy Holy Spirit lead us on  
until our glorious goal is won;  
eternal praise, eternal fame  
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

**Benediction**

**Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty**

**Postlude**

**Dylan Teut**

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

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