

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

January 23, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.



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 one, welcome all to this time of worship.

P: We gather to sing, pray, hear stories of faith, and to express devotion to God.

L: May the faith stories shared today be inspiring and meaningful for our lives now.

P: With eagerness and attentiveness we will listen, trusting that in this time of worship God draws near to us, one and all.

Hymn

God Is Here

UMH 660, v. 1 & 4

1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,

all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Common Prayer

Holy One, remind us of the joy of faith. Help us to remember that though you are with us in times of difficulty and tears, you are equally with us in times of delight and laughter. Help us to be open to the seemingly impossible becoming possible. In Christ's name. Amen.

Children's Time

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 18:1-15

God appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰ Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³ The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for God? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

Hymn

God, Whose Love is Reigning o'er Us

UMH 100, v. 1, 3, 5

1. God, whose love is reigning o'er us,
source of all, the ending true;
hear the universal chorus raised in joyful praise to you:
Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship new.

3. Holy God of ancient glory,
choosing man and woman, too;
Abr'am's faith and Sarah's story formed a people bound to you:
Alleluia, Alleluia, to your covenant keep us true.

5. Lift we then our human voices
in the songs that faith would bring;
live we then in human choices lives that, like our music, sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia, joined in love our praises ring!

Sermon

Sarah's Laughter

Dr. Rev. 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

Spirit of the Living God

UMH 393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Sprit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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

Holy God, you long for us all to flourish and when we have been blessed, you ask that we would in turn be a blessing. We present these offerings for the work of this congregation and for the building up of your kingdom. Amen.

Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

UMH 664

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,

shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with our light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Dylan Teut

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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