

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

January 23, 2022 - 10:30 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

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

Verse 1

Lord God of Abraham

Isaac and Israel

Let it be known today

That You are God

We offer up our lives

As a living sacrifice

Purify us with Your holy fire

Holy fire

Lord God of Abraham

Chorus

You are the Holy One
Highly exalted One
We've come to worship at
Your holy hill
You are the Holy One
Highly exalted One
And we surrender to
Your sov'reign will
O Lord God (of Abraham)

Verse 2

Lord God of Abraham
Isaac and Israel
Let it be known today
That You are God
Come now and fill this place
Be exalted in our praise
Let it be known today
That You are God
You are God

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Steve Merkel | Wes Tuttle
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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

God Is Here Today

TFWS 2049

God is here today,
as certain as the air I breathe,
as certain as the morning sun that rises,
as certain when I sing you'll hear my song.

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

Offertory

Megan Forbes

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

Build My Life

Verse 1
Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Verse 2

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You

Chorus

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Bridge

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

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Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Megan Forbes

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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