

# Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

*January 30, 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 Leadeth Me: O Thou Blessed

UMH 128, v. 1-3

1. God leadeth me: O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

God leadeth me, God leadeth me,  
by God's own hand God leadeth me;  
God's faithful follower I would be,  
for by God's hand God leadeth me.

2. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,  
by waters still, o'er troubled sea,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. [Refrain]

3. Lord, I would place my hand in thine,  
nor ever murmur nor repine;  
content, whatever lot I see,  
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. [Refrain]

### Common Prayer

God of our ancestors, sometimes you call people to leave home and the familiar for life and work elsewhere. Remind us that no matter where you may lead us, you go with us. Guide our feet, direct our hands, warm our hearts, that we might embody love and grace wherever we go. Amen.

### Children's Time

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

### Scripture Lesson: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

*Genesis 24:34-38 NRSV*

<sup>34</sup> So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. <sup>35</sup> The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup> And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. <sup>37</sup> My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; <sup>38</sup> but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

### Hymn

### Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here

UMH 128, v. 1

(Tune: Woodworth, UMH 357)

1 Your love, O God, has called us here,  
for all love finds its source in you,  
the perfect love that casts out fear,  
the love that Christ makes ever new.

*Genesis 24:42-49 NRSV*

<sup>42</sup> "I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! <sup>43</sup> I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," <sup>44</sup> and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.' <sup>45</sup> "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' <sup>46</sup> She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. <sup>47</sup> Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. <sup>48</sup> Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by

the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. <sup>49</sup> Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

**Hymn**

**Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here**

**UMH 128, v. 2**

(Tune: Woodworth, UMH 357)

2 O gracious God, you consecrate  
all that is lovely, good, and true.  
Bless those who in your presence wait  
and every day their love renew.

*Genesis 24:58-67. NRSV*

<sup>58</sup> And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." <sup>59</sup> So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. <sup>60</sup> And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." <sup>61</sup> Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. <sup>62</sup> Now Isaac had come from<sup>[a]</sup> Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. <sup>63</sup> Isaac went out in the evening to walk<sup>[b]</sup> in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. <sup>64</sup> And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, <sup>65</sup> and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. <sup>66</sup> And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. <sup>67</sup> Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

**Hymn**

**Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here**

**UMH 128, v. 3**

(Tune: Woodworth, UMH 357)

3 O God of love, inspire our life,  
reveal your will in all we do;  
join every husband, every wife  
in mutual love and love for you.

**Sermon**

**Matchmaker Matchmaker**

**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

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**

**Be Still My Soul**

**UMH 534, v. 1-2**

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
in every change God faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2 Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future, as in ages past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.

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

## Offertory

Dylan Teut

## Doxology

### Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!  
Praise the Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit!

## 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

### God Be With You Til We Meet Again

UMH 673

1. God be with you till we meet again;  
by his counsels guide, up hold you,  
with his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again;  
neath his wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

3. God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put his arms unfailing round you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

4. God be with you till we meet again;  
keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
smite death's threatening wave before you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

## Benediction

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

## Postlude

Dylan Teut

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

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