

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

January 9, 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: In the beginning our God created the light.

P: Morning broke open on the first day.

L: This God of ours sent the light.

P: Jesus the Christ came to the world's people.

L: Morning light opens for us.

P: God's Light illumines our lives; and opens us to worship this day.

(-- from "Flames of the Spirit" p.25)

Hymn

He Shall Reign Forevermore

Verse 1

In the bleak mid-winter
All creation groans
For a world in darkness
Frozen like a stone
Light is breaking
In a stable for a throne

Chorus

(And) He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

Verse 2

If I were a wise man
I would travel far
If I were a shepherd
I would do my part
But poor as I am
I will give to Him my heart (*Chorus*)

Bridge

Here within a manger lies the One
Who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice
Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears
The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years
Christ the Messiah

CCLI Song # 7050416
Chris Tomlin | Matt Maher
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Common Prayer (in unison)

God of all people and all places, like the magi we would journey into the presence of Jesus the Christ. There we would offer our gifts; before Christ, we would lay the realities of our lives, good and bad. We offer our joy and love and laughter, that they might be made holy; we relinquish our bitterness and hatred and worry, that we might be made whole once more; through the living Spirit of Christ. Amen. (-- from "Flames of the Spirit" p.26)

Children's Time

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn

We Three Kings

UMH 254

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

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

What Child Is This

UMH 219, v. 1 & 3

1. What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
(Refrain)

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

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

Offertory

Alex Sommerfeld

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

As the magi presented costly gifts to the Child they dared to worship as your special messenger, we would give our best through the church, which continues as Christ's body and the carrier of good news. Keep us open to the signs of your presence and responsive to your summons, no matter where it leads. Amen. (From “Fresh Winds of the Spirit” p. 22)

Hymn

Glory (Let There Be Peace)

Verse 1

One star
Burns in the darkness
Shines with the promise Emmanuel
One child
Born in the stillness
Living within us Emmanuel

Chorus

We're singing Glory Glory
Let there be peace let there be peace
Singing Glory Glory
Let there be peace let it start in me

Verse 2

One voice
Speaks for the voiceless
Hope for the hopeless Emmanuel
One love
Brings us together
Now and forever Emmanuel (*Chorus*)

Bridge

Do not be afraid
His love is strong enough to save us
Nothing stands in the way
His love is strong enough to lead us (*Repeat*)

Ending

Let there be peace let it start in me

CCLI Song # 7071972

Chris Stevens | Matt Maher | Rachel Taylor Popadic

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Benediction

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Postlude

Alex Sommerfeld

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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