

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

February 13, 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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

UMH 139

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning
bears thee on eagle's wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining.
God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.
Hast thou not known his sustaining?

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.
Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,
spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly for ever adore him.

Common Prayer

Holy One, Holy Three, relationships are wonderful and often messy. Families are complicated and beloved. Teach us to lead with grace, to be extravagant with generosity, and to love better and better with each passing day. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 29:15-30

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹ Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶ Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife. ²⁹ (Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her maid.) ³⁰ So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. He served Laban for another seven years.

Hymn

God Made from One Blood

TFWS 2170

1. God made from one blood all the families of earth,
the circles of nurture that raised us from birth,
companions who join us to walk through each stage
of childhood and youth and adulthood and age.

2. We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
for all the families we've known through the years,
the intimate networks on whom we depend
of parent and partner and roommate and friend.

3. We learn through our families how closeness and trust
increase when our actions are loving and just.
Yet families have also distorted their roles,
mistreating their members and bruising their souls.

4. Give, Lord, to each family in conflict and storm
a sense of your wisdom and grace that transform
sharp anger to insight which strengthens the heart
and makes clear the place where rebuilding can start.

5. Then widen that wisdom and grace to include
the races and viewpoints our families exclude
till peace in each home bears and nurtures the bud
of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.

Sermon Blended Families Have Been Around a Long Time 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

Where Charity and Love Prevail

UMH 549

1. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

2. With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.

3. Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

4. Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.

5. Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.

6. Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

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

Offertory

Dylan Teut

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

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.

Sending Forth the Behrendt Family**Hymn****Help Us Accept Each Other****UMH 560**

1 Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Benediction**Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty****Postlude****Dylan Teut**

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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