

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

February 20, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Pam McConnell

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

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

UMH 383

1 This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

2 For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

3 Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4 Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

Common Prayer

God of Mystery and Surprise, you are always working for good in the world, often in ways that surprise us. Teach us to rely on your grace. Teach us how to forgive. Teach us ways and means of

reconciliation. Amen and amen.

Children's Time

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 37:17b-36 and Genesis 45:1-15

Genesis 37: 17b-28

So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²² Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Genesis 44, selected verses

Then Joseph commanded the steward of his house, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the top of his sack. ² Put my cup, the silver cup, in the top of the sack of the youngest, with his money for the grain." And he did as Joseph told him... Joseph said to his steward, "Go, follow after the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you returned evil for good? Why have you stolen my silver cup?...He searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest; and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. ¹³ At this they tore their clothes... But Joseph said, "Only the one in whose possession the cup was found shall be my slave; but as for you, go up in peace to your father." ...Then Judah stepped up to him and said, "my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons; ²⁸ one left me, and I said, Surely he has been torn to pieces; and I have never seen him since. ²⁹ If you take this one also from me, and harm comes to him, you will bring down my gray hairs in sorrow to Sheol.' Now therefore, please let your servant remain as a slave to my lord in place of the boy; and let the boy go back with his brothers. ³⁴ For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me?"

Genesis 45: 3-5,13-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself ...Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ... ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Hymn

Joseph Was His Father's Favorite

Text: Carolyn Windrey Gillette
Tune: BEACH SPRING, B.F. White

Joseph was his father's favorite out of all his family there,
And his brothers did not like it when he got his coat to wear.
It was different from the others — brighter, bolder than the rest.
So he bragged to all his brothers that his father loved him best.

Joseph's nights were filled with dreaming; in his mind, he'd always win.
Soon his brothers started scheming so they could get rid of him.
In a pit they took and threw him, then they sold him. Who could save?
To a land where no one knew him, he was taken as a slave.

Bought in Egypt, Joseph labored for a man named Potiphar.
In that house he soon was favored — once again, a rising star.
What went wrong? That star was falling — falsely charged and locked up tight.
In his dreams, he heard a calling in the middle of the night.

Joseph, dreamer, there in prison saw a famine on the way.
So his wondrous gift of vision set him free and saved the day.
When his brothers came in hunger, begging, "Help us! Give us food,"
Joseph told them, "Weep no longer! "God intended this for good."

Soon the family reunited; so began new, joyful days.
And through Joseph, we're reminded God can work in wondrous ways.
God, we trust in you to guide us when we cannot see your plans.
Always, always you're beside us; all of life is in your hands.

Sermon

Reconciliation Surprise

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

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451, v. 1-2

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

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

Offertory

Pam McConnell

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.

Hymn

Hymn of Promise

UMH 707

¹ In the bulb there is a flower;
 in the seed, an apple tree;
 in cocoons, a hidden promise:
 butterflies will soon be free!
 In the cold and snow of winter
 there's a spring that waits to be,
 unrevealed until its season,
 something God alone can see.

² There's a song in every silence,
 seeking word and melody;
 there's a dawn in every darkness
 bringing hope to you and me.
 From the past will come the future
 what it holds, a mystery,
 unrevealed until its season,
 something God alone can see

³ In our end is our beginning;
 in our time, infinity;
 in our doubt there is believing;
 in our life, eternity.
 In our death, a resurrection;
 at the last, a victory,
 unrevealed until its season,
 something God alone can see.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Pam McConnell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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