

# Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

*February 6, 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**

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

**UMH 140, v. 1 & 3**

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

### **Common Prayer**

Holy God, we confess that sometimes we are taken aback by what scripture says about you. Sometimes we are more afraid of you than awed by you. Help us in the process of discerning difficult words so that we may find the seeds of grace. Amen.

### **Children's Time**

**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

### **Scripture Lesson: Genesis 22:1-14**

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. <sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." <sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. <sup>7</sup> Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

<sup>9</sup> When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." <sup>13</sup> And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

**Hymn****Abraham, When Severely Tried****V. 1-3, 6****Text: Charles Wesley**

1 Abraham, when severely tried,  
His faith by his obedience showed;  
He with the harsh command complies,  
And gave his Isaac back to God.

2 His son the father offered up--  
Son of his age, his only son;  
Object of all his joy and hope.  
And less beloved than God alone.

3 Oh, for a faith like his, that we  
The bright example may pursue;  
May gladly give up all to thee,  
To whom our more than all is due.

6 For what to thee, O Lord, we give,  
A hundred-fold we here obtain;  
And soon with thee shall all receive,  
And loss shall be eternal gain.

**Sermon****The Limits of Sacrifice****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 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****"A Merry Heart"****Handbell Choir****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 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.

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant Pastors: Mary Kay Totty and JoEllen Axthelm

*For Holy Communion, if at home, you may use whatever simple elements you have at hand — bread, crackers, pita, juice, water, wine. If you are at in person worship please follow the instructions given by the Pastor.*

Prayers of the Great Thanksgiving (spoken responsively)

Our God is with you,

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts,

**We lift them up to our God.**

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give our thanks to God.**

Heaven and earth sprang from your wisdom, O God, and you made us for your company.

**We turned away, and our love failed,  
but you remained steadfast.**

**You gave us room when we were in distress.**

And so with all your people here, and all the company of heaven, we join in an unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Everything that springs from your wisdom is blessed!  
Hosanna in the Highest!**

You lived among us as our teacher, held us, called us friends.

**You died and live again  
to show us death is not the end.**

You took bread.

**We remember.**

You broke it.

**We remember,**

You shared it.

**We ate. We remember.**

You took the cup.

**We remember.**

You said "Drink".

**We remember.**

You shared it.

**We drank. We remember.**

And so today, we feast again; our bread and wine are you.

**You live among us still, whenever we remember you.**

We offer ourselves now —

**In praise and thanksgiving.**

We offer ourselves now —

**Holy and living.**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

Come Holy Spirit, on us gathered here.

**Be among us as we share these gifts of bread and wine.**

May they become for us the bread of life and the cup of grace

**that we may become Christ's love in the world.**

God-incarnate, God-Spirit, and God-Source of All Beginnings,

**All glory and honor are yours, now and forever. AMEN!**

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

### Hymn

### God Will Take Care of You

UMH 130

1. Be not dismayed whate'er betide,  
God will take care of you;  
beneath his wings of love abide,  
God will take care of you.

2. Through days of toil when heart doth fail,  
God will take care of you;  
when dangers fierce your path assail,  
God will take care of you. [Refrain]

Refrain:

God will take care of you,  
through every day, o'er all the way;  
he will take care of you,  
God will take care of you.

4. No matter what may be the test,  
God will take care of you;  
lean, weary one, upon his breast,  
God will take care of you. [Refrain]

### Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

### Postlude

Dylan Teut

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

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