

# ***Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church***

*March 20, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.*



*Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Deb Snell**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Call to Worship**

**L:** During our Lenten journey, the days will get longer and the light will intensify.

**P:** **Thanks be for light which lifts our spirits, for sunlight which nourishes creation, for starlight which inspires us.**

**L:** Along our Lenten journey, we will encounter familiar Biblical stories, and some more obscure. We may struggle with some scripture and we may find reassurance with some scripture.

**P:** **All along the Lenten journey, we will be on watch for glimpses of beauty and other signs of God's presence with us. (MKT 2022)**

**Hymn**

**God of Grace and God of Glory**

**UMH 577**

1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on the people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story,  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

3 Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal

4 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

### **Common Prayer (in unison)**

Holy One, you surround us with your love and grace, even as you surrounded Jesus with your love and grace during his ministry and as he turned toward Jerusalem. Keep us open to your Word revealed in familiar and also unexpected ways. During this Lenten season, may the gospel stories and the art of Van Gogh help to deepen our faith and our commitment to follow Jesus. Amen. (MKT 2022)

### **Children's Time**

**Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty**

### **Scripture Lesson: Luke 13:6-9**

“<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”

### **Hymn**

### **Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling**

**UMH 348**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me;  
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me. [Refrain]

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies  
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

### **Refrain:**

Come home, come home;  
you who are weary come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, O sinner, come home!

4 O for the wonderful love he has promise  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

### **Sermon**

### **Fruitfulness...figs anyone?**

**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**

### **For the Fruits of This Creation**

**UMH 97**

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS UMH 688

1. For the fruits of this creation, thanks be to God;  
for good gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;  
for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

2. In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;  
in our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;  
for wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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

**Offertory**

**Deb Snell**

**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 (in unison)**

God of Grace, enable us to use our talents, treasure, and time in service to you and the world. While we may not paint like Van Gogh, we can give and we can serve with glad and generous hearts. Put our talents, treasure, and time to work for the building up of your kingdom and the ministries of this congregation. Amen. (MKT 2022)

**Foundation Moment**

**Julie Moody**

**Hymn**

**Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing**

**UMH 671**

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. [Refrain]

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.

3. All you may need he will provide,  
God will take care of you;  
nothing you ask will be denied,  
God will take care of you. [Refrain]

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**

**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

**Postlude**

**Deb Snell**

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

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