

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

*March 20, 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: 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**

## **Come, Now is the Time to Worship**

### **Chorus**

Come now is the time to worship

Come now is the time to give your heart

Come just as you are to worship

Come just as you are before your God

Come

### Verse 1

One day every tongue  
Will confess You are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly choose You now

### Verse 2

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives  
Willingly our knees will bow  
With all our heart soul mind and strength  
We gladly choose You now

### Ending

Come come just as you are come come

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## 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

“6 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. 7 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?’ 8 He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”

## Hymn

## Bring Forth the Kingdom

**TFWS 2190**

1. You are salt for the earth, O people:  
Salt for the Kingdom of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people:  
Life in the Kingdom of God! [Refrain]

2. You are a light on the hill, O people:  
Light for the City of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people:  
Shine for the Kingdom of God! [Refrain]

### Refrain

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,  
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;  
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,  
Bring forth the City of God!

3. You are a seed of the Word, O people:  
Bring Forth the Kingdom of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,  
Grow in the Kingdom of God!

4. We are a blest and a pilgrim people:  
Bound for the Kingdom of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland:  
Love is the Kingdom of God!

## Sermon

**Fruitfulness...figs anyone?**

**Pastor 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**

#### Chorus 1

Here's my heart Lord  
Here's my heart Lord  
Here's my heart Lord  
Speak what is true

#### Verse 2

'Cause You are strong You are sure  
You are life You endure  
You are good always true  
You are light breaking through

#### Bridge

You are more than enough  
You are here You are love  
You are hope You are grace  
You're all I have You're everything

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Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

### **Offertory**

### **Doxology**

### **Here's My Heart**

#### Verse 1

'Cause I am found I am Yours  
I am loved I'm made pure  
I have life I can breathe  
I am healed I am free

#### Chorus 2

Here's my heart Lord  
Here's my heart Lord  
Here's my heart Lord  
Speak what is true  
Here's my life Lord  
Here's my life Lord  
Here's my life Lord  
Speak what is true  
Speak what is true  
Speak what is true

**Megan Forbes**

### **Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

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.

**UMH 95**

## 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

**Greg Zabka**

### Hymn

### Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

#### Verse 1

It all comes down to this  
What you require of me  
Love my neighbor as myself  
And You above all things

#### Chorus

Act justly love mercy walk humbly  
With You God  
In all things in all ways walk humbly  
With You God

#### Verse 2

It all comes down to this  
To be Your hands and feet  
Good news to all the world  
The truth will set us free

#### Bridge

It's beauty for ashes  
It's mourning to dancing  
It's closer and closer  
The Kingdom of heaven

#### Verse 3

Years from now we'll see  
The fruit our hands have sown  
Faith just like a seed  
The only way it grows

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### Benediction

**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

### Postlude

**Megan Forbes**

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

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