

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

March 6, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Prelude

Pam McConnell

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)

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins
and close by thee to stay.

2 As thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.

3 As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live
by thy most holy word.

4 And through these days of penitence,
and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide

5 Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

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

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson: Luke 4:1-13

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,
‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only God.’”

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,¹⁰ for it is written,
‘God will command the angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

1. Jesus, tempted in the desert,
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
“Use your power,” the tempter tells him;
“Turn these barren rocks to bread!”
“Not alone by bread,” he answers,
“Can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us
is our deepest hunger stilled!”

2. Jesus, tempted at the temple,
high above its ancient wall:
“Throw yourself from lofty turret;
angels wait to break your fall!”
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,
feats that fickle crowds request:
“God, whose grace protects, preserves us,
we must never vainly test.”

3. Jesus, tempted on the mountain
by the lure of vast domain:
“Fall before me! Be my servant!
Glory, fame, you’re sure to gain!
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,
turns his eyes another way:
“God, alone deserves our homage!
God alone will I obey!”

4. When we face temptation’s power,
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter’s hour,
come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us
lest we fall your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices,
be the Word we hear, obey.

Sermon**When Temptation Seems Reasonable****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**Into Your Heart****TFWS 2160**

Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
Come in today, come in to stay;
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

Out of my heart, out of my heart,
shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus
shine out today, shine out always;
shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus.

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

Offertory**Pam McConnell****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)

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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

UMH 117

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!

2. Under the shadow of thy throne,
still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.

5. Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Pam McConnell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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