

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

March 6, 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

Shine Jesus Shine

Chorus

Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land
With the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord
And let there be light

Verse 1

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me

Verse 2

Lord I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood I may enter Your brightness
Search me try me consume all my darkness
Shine on me shine on me

Verse 3

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me

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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

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.’”

⁵ Then 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.’”
⁹ Then 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.’”
¹² Jesus 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.

Hymn

Jesus, Tempted In The Desert

TFWS 2105

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

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

Cry Of My Heart

TFWS 2165

[Chorus]

It is the cry of my heart to follow You

It is the cry of my heart to be close to You

It is the cry of my heart to follow

All of the days of my life

It is the cry of my heart to follow You

It is the cry of my heart to be close to You

It is the cry of my heart to follow

All of the days of my life

Verse 1

Teach me Your holy ways oh Lord,
so I can walk in Your truth.

Teach me Your holy ways oh Lord
and make me wholly devoted to you.

Verse 2

Open my eyes so I can see
the wonderful things that You do.

Open my heart up more and more
And make it wholly devoted to you.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Megan Forbes

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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