

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

April 17, 2022 - 6:30 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Call to Worship (from "Was It a Morning Like This?" By Sandi Patti)

Voice 1: Was it a morning like this
When the Son still hid from Jerusalem?

Voice 2: And Mary rose from her bed
To tend the Lord she thought was dead

Voice 1: Was it a morning like this
When Mary walked down from Jerusalem?

Voice 2: And two angels stood at the tomb
Bearers of news she would hear soon

Voice 1: Did the grass sing?
Did the earth rejoice to feel You again?

Voice 2: Over and over like a trumpet underground
Did the earth seem to pound "He is risen!"

Welcome and Announcements

1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
 Christ has risen where hope died,
 as he said and as he promised,
 as we doubted and denied.
 Let the moon embrace the blessing;
 let the sun sustain the cheer;
 let the world confirm the rumor;
 Christ is risen, God is here!

2. Christ has risen for the people
 whom he died to love and save;
 Christ has risen for the women
 bringing flowers to grace his grave.
 Christ has risen for disciples
 huddled in an upstairs room.
 He whose word inspired creation
 can't be silenced by the tomb.

3. Christ has risen to companion
 former friends who fear the night,
 sensing loss and limitation
 where their faith had once burned bright.
 They bemoan what is no longer,
 they expect no hopeful sign
 till Christ ends their conversation,
 breaking bread and sharing wine.

4. Christ has risen and forever
 lives to challenge and to change
 all whose lives are messed or mangled,
 all who find religion strange.
 Christ is risen, Christ is present
 making us what he has been
 evidence of transformation
 in which God is known and seen,

Common Prayer (in unison) (MKT, 2022)

God of Resurrection and New Life, we gather early on this Easter morning eager to hear again the good news that Christ is risen. We come trailing the bits and pieces of our imperfect lives, looking for the new life and transformation that can only come from you. Touch our souls, O God, and resurrect us from the things that bind and trap us. Shape our lives to be ever more compassionate, gracious, and generous. In the name of the Risen One. Amen.

Easter Reflection of Scripture and Prayer (From "Out of the Ordinary" by Joyce Rupp)

Reader: "So they left the tomb quickly with ... great joy, and ran to tell his disciples." (Matthew 28:8)

Reader: Let us pray: Risen One, Bringer of Joy, plant the seeds of great gladness deep in the soil of our being. May we enjoy life, begin each day with enthusiasm, and become ever more aware of you. Amen.

Reader: "And the women came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him." (Matthew 28:9)

Reader: Let us pray: Risen One, Beloved, draw us ever nearer to you. We offer you our love and devotion. We embrace you and bow to your beauty. May we commit our entire lives ever more fully to you. Amen.

Reader: “Mary Magdalene went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.” (Mark 16:10-11)

Reader: Let us pray: Risen One, Truth-Bringer, open our hearts to hear your voice. May we listen deeply even when tears of sorrow moisten our hearts. Erase our resistance to the surprising ways you choose to enter our lives. Amen.

Reader: “They found the stone rolled away from the tomb...” (Luke 24:2).

Reader: Let us pray: Risen One, Tomb-Opener, you are the power we need. Roll away the stones of unloving. Push back the rocks of discontent. Shove aside the boulders of worry. Untomb us and set us free. Amen.

Reader: “‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered his words.” (Luke 24:5-8)

Reader: Let us pray: Risen One, Carrier of Memories, you have revealed many things to us through events and people, in the pages of scripture, and in the quiet of our hearts. Carry us back in memory to savor your revelations. Amen.

Reader: “But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.” (Luke 24:12)

Reader: Let us pray: Risen One, Source of Amazement, we run to the tombs of our lives, we hurry to see for ourselves. When we look with eyes of faith, we are amazed at what we find. That which seems dead and forsaken fills with wisdom and teachings for our lives. Amen.

Reader: “Jesus himself came near and went with them... And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’” (Luke 24:15-17)

Reader: Let us pray: Risen One, Full of Compassion, you are with us as we walk the continuing road of sorrow and joy. You listen to our longings. You fill us with the strength of your loving nearness. Amen.

Reader: “He walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us...’ So he went in to stay with them.” (Luke 24:28-29)

Reader: Let us pray: Risen One, Trusted Companion, we desire to be with you. Stay with us. Your presence nourishes our hunger. Your love feeds our desire for goodness. Stay with us. Stay with us. Amen.

Reader: “Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.” (Luke 24:35)

Reader: Let us pray: Risen One, Sacred Teacher, you send us forth with blessing. You bid us tell the powerful story of your risen life. May we tell this story again and again through the witness of our lives, by the quality of our love and by the courage of our words. Amen.

Reader: "All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers." (Acts 1:14)

Reader: Let us pray: Risen One, Core of Community, whenever we gather, you are with us. Whenever we gather, you make our hearts, one heart. Risen One, we welcome you into our midst. Amen.

Hymn

Shine, Jesus Shine

TFWS 2173

Refrain

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

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
Shine on me, shine on me. (R)

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. (R)

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. (R)

Sharing of Easter Symbols (pass baskets with butterfly stones, each person take one as a pocket reminder that each day brings with it the possibility of new life.)

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

UMH 302, v. 1-5

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Fellowship Time in the Junto Event Center

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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The Seward United Methodist Church, 1400 N. 5th Street, Seward, NE 68434

Phone: 402-643-4156 ~ Fax 402-643-4159

E-mail: umcseward@gmail.com ~ Website: www.sewardumc.org

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.