

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

May 29, 2022 - 9:15 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Pam McConnell

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship:

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God;

P: let all the peoples praise you.

L: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

P: for you rule the world with justice.

L: With fairness you rule the peoples,

P: and guide all the nations upon earth.

L: Let the people praise you, O God;

P: let all the peoples praise you.

1. O beautiful for spacious skies,
 for amber waves of grain;
 for purple mountain majesties
 above the fruited plain!
 America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
 and crown thy good with brotherhood
 from sea to shining sea.

2. O beautiful for heroes proved
 in liberating strife,
 who more than self their country loved,
 and mercy more than life!
 America! America! May God thy gold refine,
 till all success be nobleness,
 and every gain divine.

3. O beautiful for patriot dream
 that sees beyond the years
 thine alabaster cities gleam,
 undimmed by human tears!
 America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
 confirm thy soul in self-control,
 thy liberty in law.

Common Prayer of Confession:

God we confess that we prefer parades to caring for those with PTSD. We confess that we say “thank you for your service” and allow veterans’ benefits to be eroded. We confess that on this holiday we remember quickly, then turn to barbecue and big-box store sales.

Turn our hearts, we pray, to a moment of honor of those who have died to preserve the community and abundance we enjoy, and to a life-long commitment to justice and peace in our own and all communities. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

God forgive us the ways we misuse both holy-days and civic celebrations and call us forth, unbound, to care, day-by-day, everyday, for the world.

Children’s Time**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm****Scriptures****Psalm 46**

God is our refuge and strength,
 a very present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
 though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam,
 though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
 the holy habitation of the Most High.
⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
 God will help it when the morning dawns.
⁶ The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;

God utters their voice; the earth melts.

⁷The God of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸Come, behold the works of God;
see what desolations God has brought on the earth.

⁹God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.”

¹¹The God of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge

Hymn

O God of Every Nation

UMH 435

1 O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us,
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us,
and heal our strife-torn world.

3 Lord, strengthen all who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.

2 From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray.

4 Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain

Sermon

Have We Forgotten?

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Memorial Day Litany from **The Book of Worship for United States Forces (1974)**

(One-time permission to print and use this litany in congregational worship has been granted by The Armed Forces Chaplains' Board, Washington, D.C.)

L: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

P: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

L: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

P: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

L: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the worlds common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

P: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

L: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

PEOPLE: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

L: O Holy and Merciful God, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence. Amen.

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

This Is My Song

UMH 437

This is my prayer O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come on earth Thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve Him,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer Thou God of all the nations;
Myself I give Thee let Thy will be done.

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

Offertory

Pam McConnell

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

Put these gifts, and our time and talents, to work in the world for your purposes, O God. Grant to us the capacity to move beyond good intentions to give ourselves completely to making a difference in your name. Amen.

Hymn

Sent Out in Jesus' Name

TFWS 2184

Refrain

Sent out in Jesus' name,
our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do,
to set it really free.
O help us to obey
and carry out your will. (R)

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Pam McConnell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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