

# Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

*May 8, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.*



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

## **Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Dylan Teut**

## **Passing the Peace**

**Call to Worship** From "The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012," edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © 2011 by Abingdon Press.

Come, walk in green pastures.

**We follow the Shepherd.**

Come, lie down in green pastures.

**We trust the Shepherd.**

Come, dine at the table of abundance.

**We are fed by the Shepherd.**

Come, dwell in God's house.

**We live in the Shepherd's care.**

1. The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine forever.

2. Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

3. Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me

5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6. And so through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

**Common Prayer** From "The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012," edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © 2011 by Abingdon Press.

Loving Shepherd,  
you know our names;  
you care for us.  
When we face darkness and death,  
walk beside us.  
When we hunger for your love,  
fill us with your presence.  
When we are fearful,  
feed us at your table.  
May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy  
all the days of our lives. Amen.

### **Reflective Prayer for Mother's Day**

Submitted by Noelene Martin Penrith, New South Wales

#### *Litany*

**1. I am Eve. My son Cain killed his brother Abel because he was jealous.**

We remember mothers whose families are torn apart by jealousy, fighting and misunderstandings.

**2. I am Sarah. I was an old woman when I gave birth to my son Isaac.**

We remember mothers who are older, but who still bear the responsibility of raising children and grandchildren.

**3. I am Rebekah. I helped my favorite son, Jacob, to trick his brother, Esau, out of his birthright.**

We remember mothers who mean well, but who make mistakes.

**4. I am Moses' mother. I hid my child so that he would not be taken by government authorities.**

We remember mothers whose children are taken or stolen from them because of commercial interests or government policy.

**5. I am Pharaoh's daughter. I found a baby in a basket and adopted him, raising him as my own child.**

We remember mothers who have adopted children and mothers who have had their children adopted.

**6. I am Hannah, the mother of Samuel. I was one of many women who had difficulty becoming a mother.**

We remember mothers who, after many disappointments, are finally successful in being able to conceive and give birth to a child.

**7. I am the mother of David. I watched as my son grew from being a shepherd boy to become a great king.**

We remember mothers who rejoice in the achievements of their children.

**8. I am the widow of Zarephath. When my bowl of flour and oil is gone, my child and I will die because our land is gripped by famine.**

We remember mothers who watch their children suffer and die from malnutrition because of famine, drought, flood or war.

**9. I am one of the mothers from Bethlehem. King Herod's soldiers murdered our children for no reason.**

We remember mothers whose children are tortured and murdered by soldiers and militia for political reasons.

**10. I am a mother of Salem. I wanted to take my children to meet Jesus, but his disciples said not to bother him.**

We remember mothers who would like their children to know Jesus but who are discouraged by modern-day disciples who are annoyed by kids.

**11. I am the Syro-phenician woman. Even though Jesus referred to me as a dog, I pestered him to cure my daughter who was very ill.**

We remember mothers whose children are sick or disabled and who will try anything to cure or help them.

**12. I am the widow at Nain. Jesus raised my son from the dead so I would not be left destitute.**

We remember mothers who, as widows, or for other reasons, raise their children alone.

**13. I am the mother of James and John. I asked Jesus if they could have a special place next to him in Heaven.**

We remember mothers who believe their children can do no wrong and deserve special treatment.

**14. I am Mary. I watched my child suffer and die on a cross.**

We remember mothers who watch their children suffer and die.

**15. I am Lois. Eunice and I taught Timothy, our son and grandson, about Jesus.**

We remember mothers who teach their children about Jesus.

**16. I am one of many nameless women. I was not able to be a mother, even though I would have liked it very much.**

We remember women who, because of various circumstances, are unable to become mothers.

*Conclusion*

Leader: Before us is a vase of flowers, a symbol of the mothers we have remembered today. The flowers are different colors and varieties and at various stages of development, because mothers are not all the same. They are all different. Amen

**Children's Time**

**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

**Scriptures**

Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

<sup>2</sup> he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil;  
for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
thou anointest my head with oil,  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
for ever.

John 10: 1-16

<sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as God knows me and I know God. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

**Hymn**

**Shepherd Me, O God**

**TFWS 2058**

Refrain

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

<sup>1</sup> God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. (R)

<sup>2</sup> Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. (R)

<sup>3</sup> Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. (R)

<sup>4</sup> You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,  
crowning me with love beyond my power to hold. (R)

<sup>5</sup> Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. (R)

**Sermon**

**Shepherds, Sheep, and Flocks**

**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**

**Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

**UMH 381**

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
much we need thy tender care;  
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

3. Thou hast promised to receive us,  
poor and sinful though we be;  
thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
grace to cleanse and power to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
We will early turn to thee.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
We will early turn to thee.

2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way;  
keep thy flock, from sin defend us  
seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Hear, O hear us when we pray  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

4. Early let us seek thy favor,  
early let us do thy will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior,  
with thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

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

**Offertory**

**Dylan Teut**

**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**

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God of love,  
you abide with us;  
you provide for all our needs  
and guide us in your ways.  
Out of gratitude for your care,  
we bring our gifts before you.  
Use them for your work of caring,  
that all may feast at the table of abundance,  
walk without fear,  
and drink deeply  
from the cup of compassion. Amen.

### **Hymn**

### **His Name is Wonderful**

**UMH 174**

His name is wonderful,  
his name is wonderful,  
his name is wonderful,  
Jesus my Lord.  
He is the mighty King,  
Master of everything;  
his name is wonderful,  
Jesus my Lord.  
He's the great Shepherd,  
the Rock of all ages,  
almighty God is he;  
bow down before him,  
love and adore him,  
his name is wonderful,  
Jesus, my Lord.

### **Benediction**

**Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty**

### **Postlude**

**Dylan Teut**

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

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