

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

May 8, 2022 - 10:30 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

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.

Hymn

King of Love

Verse 1

The King of Love my Shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever
And He is mine forever

Chorus

Never failing Ruler of my heart
Everlasting Lover of my soul
On the mountain high or in the valley low
The King of Love my Shepherd is
The King of Love my Shepherd is

Verse 3

Lost and foolish off I strayed
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me

Bridge

Oh Hallelujah Hallelujah
Oh Hallelujah Hallelujah

Verse 5

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd may I sing Your praise
Within Your house forever
Within Your house forever

CCLI Song # 6529824
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Verse 2

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth

Verse 4

In death's dark veil I fear no ill
With Thee dear Lord beside me
Thy rod and staff my comfort still
Thy cross before to guide me (C)

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-phoenician 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

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

² he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

thou anointest my head with oil,

my cup overflows.

⁶ 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

¹ "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. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

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

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² 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. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as God knows me and I know God. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ 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.

¹ 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)

² 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)

³ 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)

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

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

Final Refrain

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

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

You Are My Hiding Place

TFSW 2055

You are my hiding place.
you always fill my heart with songs of deliverance,
whenever I am afraid I will trust in you,
I will trust in you.
Let the weak say, I am strong in the strength of the Lord. (Repeat)
I will trust in you.

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

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

Joy

Verse

There's beauty in my brokenness
I've got true love instead of pain
There's freedom though You've captured me
I've got joy instead of mourning

Chorus

You give me joy
Down deep in my soul
Down deep in my soul
Down deep in my soul

Bridge

Never been so free caught in Your love for me
Never been more secure (knowing Your heart Lord)

Benediction

Postlude

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Alex Sommerfeld

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.