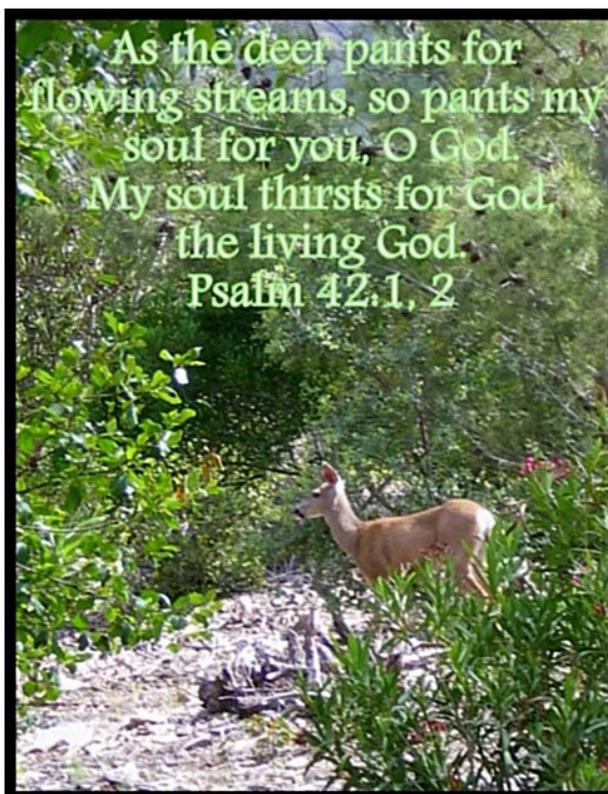


# Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

June 19, 2022 - 9:15 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude**

**Deb Snell**

**Passing the Peace**

**Call To Worship** (Written by Thom Shuman, inspired by 1 Kings 19: 8-15)

Leader: When we long for the special effects we think life should offer:

**People: it is enough, for us, that God comes in a soft, summer shower.**

Leader: When our hearts are cracked by the drought of doubt:

**People: it is enough, for us, that God opens up the fountains of faith for us.**

Leader: When our senses are deadened by the sales pitches of our culture:

**People: it is enough, for us, that God wraps us in the silence of grace.**

**Hymn**

**Wonderful Words of Life**

**UMH 600**

<sup>1</sup>Sing them over again to me,  
wonderful words of life;  
Let me more of their beauty see,  
wonderful words of life;  
words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.  
(Refrain)

<sup>2</sup>Christ, the blessed one,  
gives to all wonderful words of life  
sinner, list to the loving call,  
wonderful words of life;  
all so freely given, wooing us to heaven.  
(Refrain)

<sup>3</sup>Sweetly echo the gospel call,  
wonderful words of life;  
Offer pardon and peace to all,  
wonderful words of life;  
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever.  
(Refrain)

<sup>R</sup>Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
wonderful words of life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
wonderful words of life.

**Opening Prayer:** (Posted on My Redeemer Lives website, adapted for language)

O God who is greater than the most powerful forces in this world, enable us to be still and know that You are God. O God who answers out of the whirlwind of everyday life, breathe in us Your Holy Spirit to strengthen, comfort, and guide us in the midst of the storm. O still, small voice, speak to us this hour that we might become makers of Your peace in our homes, in our communities, in our world. We pray all this in the name of the One who calmed the raging sea. Amen.

## Children's Time

**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

**Litany of Peace for Father's Day** (Rev. Jane Sommers)

Leader: Loving God, we lift this day our gratitude for the loving men who have brought us the precious heart of your Father Love.  
We give thanks to you this day

**People: For those who have shown us kindness,  
For those who have shown us courage,  
For those who have shown us generosity,  
For those who have shown us truth,  
For those who have shown us compassion,  
For those who have shown us faith,  
For those who have shown us love.**

Leader: Blessed be the name of all sons and brothers and fathers who reveal a glimpse of your loving presence on earth.  
O God, you inspire your people in the ways of kindness that lift our world from its disgrace.

**People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer  
For every son, brother, father, grandfather,  
who has suffered and endured.**

Leader: We lift a stone from the streambed of Living Waters to the forehead of the men and boys in our lives, touching each forehead with the sign of your healing

**People: for every broken heart hidden from view,  
for every secret shame buried in darkness,  
for every untold story of regret and alienation.**

Leader: We touch with this stone the brow of every man  
who has suffered for those he loved;  
We touch with this stone the forehead of our ancestral fathers  
who sacrificed their very lives,

**People: inviting you to heal the wars and woes and wickedness within,  
inviting your everlasting peace, that the world might know your peace.**

Leader: Hear our prayer, O God, for this broken world.  
We pray for peace this Father's Day.

**People: For wisdom and equity in the hearts and minds of those who lead us.  
For justice with mercy that seeks equitable access to the earth's resources.  
For passion and power in our churches to influence public policy for good.  
For a new day when justice will roll down like waters across this land.  
For the revelation of Father Love that never leaves nor forsakes.**

Leader: And we lift your hope of healing for all sons, brothers, fathers, grandfathers  
who live in mystery as your creation,  
who are entrusted with the life and struggles of manhood.

**People: May they grow in Father Love to your glory.**

Hear our prayer, O God, for this broken world.  
We pray for peace this Father's Day.

**All:  
Amen.**

### **Scripture Lesson**

#### **1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a**

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O God, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of God came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."

He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of God came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for God, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before God, for God is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before God, but God was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but God was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for God, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then God said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus.

## **Psalm 42**

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?" These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me. By day God commands God's steadfast love, and at night God's song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?" As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?" Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise God, my help and my God.

## **Hymn**

## **Cry of My Heart**

**TFWS 2165**

### **Refrain**

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 the days fo my life.

1. Teach me your holy ways, O Lord,  
so I can walk in your truth.  
Teach me your holy ways, O Lord,  
and make me wholly devoted to you.

2. Open my eyes so I can see  
the wonderful things that you do.  
Open my heart up more and more  
and make me wholly devoted to you

## **Sermon**

## **Be Still . . . Our God Speaks!**

**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

## **Prayer of Confession** *(Written by Katherine Hawker)*

**Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty**

**Leader: We come seeking God in mighty earthquakes.  
We come listening for God in resounding thunder.  
We come expecting God in sweeping victories.**

People: Yet God is found in a baby's touch.  
Yet God speaks in silence.  
Yet God is found in the least of these.

**Leader: Save us, O God, from our aimless wandering.**

**Save us, O God, from our idols.  
Save us, O God, from our self-induced chaos.**

People:  
God, in your mercy,

**Leader:  
Hear our prayer.**

All: Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Hear the good news of God's love for us;  
not in the earthquake, not in the storms, not in the mighty deeds  
but in the silence, in the gentle touch, in the quiet rain  
God says, again, "You are my Beloved. I love you."

### **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**

### **As The Deer**

**TFWS 2025**

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.  
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

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

### **Offertory**

**Deb Snell**

### **Doxology**

### **Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**UMH 95**

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**

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 Forth by God's Blessing**

**UMH 664**

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended, O now be extended

the fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our every day life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.  
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

**Benediction** *(Rev. Dr. Derek C. Weber)*

**Pastor JoEllen Axthelm**

Invitation to All: Now may we who have been put into our right minds, and clothed with compassion  
and grace, return to our homes and declare –  
declare what God has done and is doing in your life  
declare the healing at work in us  
declare the promise of community and of life.  
May we go to declare that God is at work, and we are the sign.  
May we go to live a declaration.  
May we go with God.

**Postlude**

**Deb Snell**

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

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The Seward United Methodist Church, 141. Rejoice, ye pure in heart;  
rejoice, give thanks, and sing;  
your glorious banner wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your King.

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