

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

July 3, 2022 - 9:15 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Megan Forbes

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

L: We are here because we have heard the call of Jesus in our lives.

P: We are here to challenge and support one another to rise up and follow.

L: We are here because we want to be God's people.

P: We want to learn more about what it means to be the people of God.

L: We come, seeking to be moved, changed, and made whole by the Spirit of the living God.

P: Let us open our hearts to the moving of the Spirit, and prepare to leave this place as true disciples of Christ. Amen.

(from "Bread for the Journey" p.51)

Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH 519

1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;

sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Common Prayer

O God of love, you have called us into the church. We thank you for opportunities to grow in understanding and concern for one another. May our congregation be an incarnation of your love within and beyond these church doors, wherever there is loneliness, injustice, or misunderstanding; through Christ our Savior and the Holy Spirit our Strength. Amen. (from "Bread for the Journey" p.63)

Children's Time

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Baptism

Jett Henry Strauss

Hymn

God Claims You

TFWS 2249

(R) Jett, Jett God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

1. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be.
2. We your family love you so, we vow to help your faith to grow.
3. We are here to say this day that we will help you on your way.

Scripture Lessons

Jeremiah 29:4-7

⁴ Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

I Timothy 2:1-4

2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, 4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Hymn

We Seek Your Kingdom (tune: EVENTIDE...aka Abide With me)

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere
We long for heaven's demonstration here
Jesus your light shine bright for all to see
Transform, revive, and heal society

Before all things, in him were all things made
Inspiring culture, media, and trade
May all our work serve your economy
Transform, revive, and heal society

Peace, truth, and justice reigning everywhere
With us be present in our public square
Fill all who lead with your integrity
Transform, revive, and heal society

Forgive us Lord, when we have not engaged
Failing to scribe your heart on history's page
Make us again what we were made to be
Transform, revive, and heal society

Faithful to govern ever may we be
Selfless in service, loving constantly
In everything may your authority
Transform, revive, and heal society

Sermon

"Praying for Our Nation"

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

INDEPENDENCE DAY LITANY (by Rick Morley)

Leader: As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts.

For the women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,
We thank you God.

For the tribe's and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generations,
We thank you God.

For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,
We thank you God.

For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,
We thank you God.

For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,
We thank you God.

For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,
We thank you God.

For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,
We thank you God.

For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,
We thank you God.

For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,
We thank you God.

Holy One, we pray for The United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.
We pray to you God.

That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray,
We pray to you God.

That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,
We pray to you God.

That those who are elected to govern and lead, would be guided by you, and be ever aware of the trust that has been given them,
We pray to you God.

That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and to your grace,
We pray to you God.

God of all nations, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

America the Beautiful

UMH 696

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.

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

Offertory

Megan Forbes

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.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant Pastors: Mary Kay Totty and Jen Davidson

For Holy Communion, if at home, you may use whatever simple elements you have at hand — bread, crackers, pita, juice, water, wine. If you are at in person worship please follow the instructions given by the Pastor. The bread used for communion is gluten free. Everyone here is invited to partake of both bread and cup. If you prefer to be served in your seat rather than coming forward to receive, please let the ushers know.

Prayers of the Great Thanksgiving (spoken responsively)

Our God is with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts,

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give our thanks to God.**

Heaven and earth sprang from your wisdom, O God, and you made us for your company.

**We turned away, and our love failed,
but you remained steadfast.**

You gave us room when we were in distress.

And so with all your people here, and all the company of heaven, we join in an unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
Hosanna in the highest!
Everything that springs from your wisdom is blessed!
Hosanna in the Highest!**

You lived among us as our teacher, held us, called us friends.

**You died and live again
to show us death is not the end.**

You took bread.

We remember.

You broke it.

We remember,

You shared it.

We ate. We remember.

You took the cup.

We remember.

You said "Drink".

We remember.

You shared it.

We drank. We remember.

And so today, we feast again; our bread and wine are you.

You live among us still, whenever we remember you.

We offer ourselves now —

In praise and thanksgiving.

We offer ourselves now —

Holy and living.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Come Holy Spirit, on us gathered here.

Be among us as we share these gifts of bread and wine.

May they become for us the bread of life and the cup of grace

that we may become Christ's love in the world.

God-incarnate, God-Spirit, and God-Source of All Beginnings,

All glory and honor are yours, now and forever. AMEN!

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Hymn

Build Your Kingdom Here

Verse 1

Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your church
We need Your pow'r in us (C)

Verse 2

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captives' hearts released
The hurt the sick the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray revive this earth (C)

Chorus

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here we pray

Verse 3
Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church
We are the hope on earth (C)

CCLI Song # 6186078
Chris Llewellyn | Gareth Gilkeson | William Herron
© 2011 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 944110

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Megan Forbes

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

*Hymn/Song music and texts used in this service are done so by permission of CCLI License 944110 and streaming license CSPL139482
and performance/broadcast license CCS 8686*

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Holy Bible, © 1989,
by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States

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.