

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

September 4, 2022 - 9:30 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Megan Forbes

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship: (from Psalm 150)

L: Praise our God! Praise God's wonderful deeds!

P: Praise God with trumpet sound, with flute and harp -- strings and pipe.

L: Praise God with a life of dance and grace,

P: With sounding cymbals and loud alleluias!

L: Let everything that breathes praise our God!

P: Praise to our God -- all the earth!

Hymn

Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

TFWS 2020

1. Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle sounding flute.

Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.
Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or snow
or in the morning light.
Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord; never let your voice be still.

2. Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment;
nothing let your praise destroy.
Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!

Common Prayer (in unison)

Glorious God, Source of joy and righteousness, enable us as redeemed and forgiven children evermore to rejoice in singing your praises. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives; so that we may be doers of the Word and not hearers only. Amen.

(adapted from Fred D. Gealy)

Children's Time

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 96:7-13

- 7 Ascribe to God, O families of the peoples, ascribe to God glory and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to God the glory due that holy name; bring an offering and come into God's courts.
- 9 Worship God in holy splendor; tremble before God, all the earth.
- 10 Say among the nations, "God is sovereign!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
God will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- 12 let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
- 13 before God, who is coming to judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with truth

Hymn Sing

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

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

TFWS 2193

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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

Thank you, O God, for all that you have entrusted to us. Make us good stewards of our time, talents, and treasure that we might be generous in sharing all that we are and have. In Jesus' name. Amen.
(MKT, 2022)

Great Thanksgiving based on Hymns of Faith

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant Pastors: Mary Kay Totty and JoEllen Axthelm

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

It is good to celebrate all that is good in life, all the wonder of faith, all the glory of creation. Our expressions of praise may come in word or movement, stillness or song, music or prayer, or some marvelous hybrid of all of these.

Through the songs of faith:

— we are able to offer thanks as we sing “For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies...”

— we remember all the loved ones who have crossed through the veil when we sing “For all the saints who from their labors rest...”

— we recognize the gift of God’s unconditional acceptance when we sing “Amazing Grace how sweet the sound”

— we affirm our faith and hope by singing “It is well with my soul”

— we dream and envision the kingdom of God as we sing “Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still”

— we find courage to persist and persevere when we sing “God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, we your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore”

So together, let us give expression to our praise by singing with joy: (UMH#89)

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, God of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away,
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

The songs of faith also teach us the stories of Jesus and his witness to God’s love for each of us. As we sing “O God, with your eyes you have searched me and while smiling have spoken my name” we are reminded that in God’s eyes each one of us and all of us are beloved and precious. As we sing “Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white, neighbors are near and far away” we learn anew of Jesus’ commitment to the least, the last, and the lost.

The songs of faith also remind us of all the symbolism and richness of this simple meal we share around this table. For “here would we touch and handle things unseen, here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace” and we remember...

We remember the final night of Jesus’ life that he gathered his closest friends and shared a meal with them. We remember that Jesus took bread and broke it and gave it to those gathered saying, “Take, eat, this is the bread of life given for you.”

We remember that Jesus also took a cup and gave it to his followers saying “Drink from this all of you in remembrance of me, in honor of this covenant. As often as you drink, remember.”

So we remember. We remember God’s love shining through the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth and we sing with confidence our earliest affirmation of faith:

**Yes Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me,
yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

Holy One, pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup. Be present with us in this moment and draw us closer to you and one another. May the faith in our hearts bring a song to our lips and enable our hands to serve the world with love and grace. Remind us in this holy moment and every day that “We are called to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.” Amen and Amen.

Hymn

Go In Peace

(Back of Hymnal)

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate New Life!
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Megan Forbes

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.

00 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.