

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

October 30, 2022 - 9:30 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"All Creatures of Our God King"

Handbell Choir

Peace of Christ Blessing

Call to Worship:

(adapted from Tirabasi, "Touch Holiness", p. 101)

L: Many have walked the path toward God before us, showing us the way with their lives.

P: We come to give thanks for them.

L: As they were called, so are we called to live as Jesus did, answering the call of God, saying, "Here I am! Send me."

P: We come to ask for guidance and courage.

L: We are, each of us, like those who have gone before us, a strange mixture of saint and sinner. God accepts us that way and fills us with the Spirit, who empowers us to act.

P: We come to worship the Holy God.

Hymn

For All the Saints

UMH 711

¹For all the saints, who from their labors rest;
who thee by faith before the world confessed;
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest;
Alleluia, Alleluia!

²Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
thou, God, their shelter, in the stormy night;
thou, in the darkness drear their one true light;
Alleluia, Alleluia!

³The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest;
Alleluia, Alleluia!

⁴But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
they sing to God, and dance along the way;
Alleluia, Alleluia!

⁵O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine;
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Common Prayer (*S. Griffith, 2019*)

O Giver of Life, hold us in life.
The world is full of terror, but also of beauty,
full of hatred, but also of love,
full of violence, but also of caring.
Help us to see ourselves and one another as you see us.
Let us be instruments of peace.
Stir in us the impulse to love in the face of hate.
Bring light in the midst of darkness;
and fill us with courage to stand with each other
and all those who are grieving and hurting.
Help us to move beyond rhetoric and reaction
to purposeful action that brings healing and enhances life.
Give us strength to speak out against injustice
in whatever form it presents itself,
and wisdom to find a way toward justice and peace.
May we stand hand in hand,
and work side by side,
'til all recognize and honor the dignity and sacred worth of every person.
And may all we say and do be blessing and compassion and peace.
Amen and amen.

Children's Time

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Scripture Lessons Psalm 23 (King James Version)

23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Hymn

For All The Saints

TFWS 2283

¹ For all the saints who've shown your love
in how they live and where they move,
for mindful women, caring men,
accept our gratitude again.

² For all the saints who loved your name,
whose faith increased the Savior's fame,
who sang your songs and shared your word,
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

³ For all the saints who named your will,
and showed the kingdom coming still
through selfless protest, prayer, and praise,
accept the gratitude we raise.

⁴ Bless all whose will or name or love
reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though unclaimed by earthly powers,
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

Sermon

Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Time of Remembering the Saints

Photos of those connected to our faith community will be shared on the screen. As the photo is shared, the persons name will be read aloud and a candle will be lit in their memory and honor.

Prayer of Those Who Died in Tragic Circumstances *(adapted from "Out of the Ordinary" by Joyce Rupp, p. 42)*

Leader: We unite in compassion with all souls and who have died and who may not yet be at peace.
Let us pray for

...those who have taken their own lives or caused their own deaths,
...those who died due to violence or brutal aggression,
...those who failed to reconcile their anger and remained alienated,
...those who have been executed for heinous crimes,
...those killed extra judicially without trial or due process,
...those who fought death and refused to be comforted,
...those whose ego-focused decisions led to the deaths of others,
...those killed in car crashes caused by substance abuse or recklessness,
...those who raged against others and died with hate in their hearts,
...all other souls who died in distress.

ALL: Merciful One, it is not for us to judge those who have died. Rather, we come to you with the assurance of your great compassion. We unite with these wounded brothers and sisters of ours and believe that you draw all to your forgiving heart. May the love we bear be encouragement for all souls winging their way home to you. Thank you for your unconditional love for all you have created. 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

Fix Me, Jesus

UMH 655

Refrain:

Oh, fix me,
Oh, fix me,
Oh, fix me;
Fix me Jesus, fix me.

Leader: Fix me for my home on high
All: Fix me Jesus, fix me.
L: Fix me for the by and by
A: Fix me Jesus, fix me.

L: Fix me for my starry crown
A: Fix me Jesus, fix me.
L: Fix me for a higher ground,
A: Fix me, Jesus, fix me. (R)

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

Offertory

Megan Forbes

Doxology

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 (*Revelation 7:9-17, UMC Discipleship*)

God of all generations, as we worship today, we offer our whole selves to you, all that we have and all that we are. Like your saints who have gone before us, we pray that you will help us be bold in our mission and in our witness. May we who have been given so much give freely, ministering in your compassion to the multitudes near to us and far from us; so that one day we may stand amidst the multitude that gathers at your heavenly throne. We pray this in the name of our Savior and Redeemer, Christ Jesus. Amen.

Closing Hymn

I'll Fly Away

TFWS 2283

1 Some glad morning when this life is o'er,
I'll fly away;
To a home on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away;

Refrain: I'll fly away, O glory,
I'll fly away.
When I die, hallelujah by and by,
I'll fly away.

2 When the shadows of this life have gone,
I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I'll fly away; (R)

3 Just a few more wary days and then,
I'll fly away;
to a land where joys shall never end,
I'll fly away; (R)

Benediction

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Postlude

Megan Forbes

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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