

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

November 20, 2022



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Unbroken Praise

Chancel Choir

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship (from *“Flames of the Spirit”*, ed. Ruth Duck, p.59)

L: We gather today, seeking the peace Christ gives.

P: **We gather, in spite of many a conflict, many a doubt, within our souls.**

L: We gather, longing for the breath of God’s Spirit to give us courage and renewal.

P: **Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest. Bless us through the power of your Spirit, and give us courage to live as your disciples day by day. Amen.**

Hymn

Come Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire

UMH 603

1. Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire,
let us thine influence prove;
source of the old prophetic fire,
fountain of life and love.

2. Come, Holy Ghost (for moved by thee
the prophets wrote and spoke),
unlock the truth, thyself the key,
unseal the sacred book.

3. Expand thy wings, celestial Dove,
brood o’er our nature’s night;
on our disordered spirits move,
and let there now be light.

4. God, through the Spirit we shall know
if thou within us shine,
and sound, with all thy saints below,
the depths of love divine.

Common Prayer (in unison) (from *“Flames of the Spirit”*, ed. Ruth Duck, pp. 83-84)

Holy Comforter, be with us in those seasons when we wander from the path of joy into the winter of our spiritual life. Be our light when we experience a time of trial or tribulation, a time of loneliness or despair, a time of question or doubt. May the pathways of Christ reopen avenues for new life and celebration. Amen.

Children’s Time

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Scripture Lesson: Deuteronomy 23:12-14

“You shall have a designated area outside the camp to which you shall go. With your utensils you shall have a trowel; when you relieve yourself outside, you shall dig a hole with it and then cover up your excrement. Because the Lord your God travels along with your camp, to save you and to hand over your enemies to you, therefore you camp must be holy, so that God may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you.”

Hymn

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

TFWS 2246

¹ Deep in the shadows of the past,
Far out from settled lands,
Some nomads traveled with their God
Across the desert sands.
The dawning hope of human kind
By them was sensed and shown;
A promise calling them ahead
A future yet unknown.

² While others bowed to changeless gods
they met a mystery,
invisible, without a name:
“I AM WHAT I WILL BE”;
and by their tents, around their fires,
in story, song and law,
they praised, remembered, handed on
A past that promised more.

³ From Exodus to Pentecost
The promise changed and grew,
While some, remembering the past,
Recorded what they knew,
Or with their letters and laments,
Their prophecy and praise
Recovered, kindled and expressed
New hope for changing days.

⁴ For all the writings that survived,
for leaders, long ago,
who sifted, copied, and preserved
the Bible that we know,
give thanks, and find its story yet
our promise, strength and call,
the model of emerging faith,
Alive with hope for all.

**Sermon Things the Bible Doesn't Say: “God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It”
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

Thy Word is a Lamp

UMH 601

(Refrain)
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

¹ When I feel afraid,
Think I've lost my way,
Still you're there right beside me,
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end. (R)

² Now I will not forget
your love for me and yet
my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide
And hold me to your side,
And I will love you to the end. (R)

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

Offertory

Pam McConnell

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 (*from “Flames of the Spirit”, ed. Ruth Duck, p.90*)

Thank you, God, for the opportunity to share in your creative and restorative work among people. Because you have blessed us, we have much to give. These offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be more fully your own loyal community. Amen.

Hymn

Wonderful Words of Life

UMH 600

1. 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.

2. 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. (R)

Refrain:
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.

3. Sweetly echo the gospel call,
wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all,
wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior,
sanctify forever. (R)

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Pam McConnell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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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

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