

# Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

November 6, 2022



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

## Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Sarah Rodocker

## 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

**My Feet Are On The Rock**

Verse 1

I can see the clouds roll in  
I can feel the winds they try to shake me  
I will not be moved my feet are on the Rock

Verse 2

I can feel the waters rise  
I can hear the howling lies that haunt me  
Fear won't hold me now my feet are on the Rock

Chorus

When I feel my hope about to break  
I will cling to Your unchanging grace  
Let the waters come and the earth give way  
I'll be dancing in the rain  
My feet are on the Rock

Verse 3  
I can see the morning light  
I can feel the joy on the horizon  
Here my faith is found I stand on solid ground (C)

Bridge  
On Christ the solid Rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
So stomp your feet and clap your hands  
Our feet are on the Rock

Ending  
My feet are on the Rock Oo Oo  
My feet are on the Rock

CCLI Song # 7106247  
Abbie Parker | Josh Bronleewe | Lindsey Sweat | Matthew Hein  
© Curb Congregation Songs (Admin. by Curb Music Publishing)  
Josh Bronleewe Music (Admin. by Curb Music Publishing)  
All Essential Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)  
Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)  
I Am "They" Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)  
IAMTHEYSONGS (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)  
So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)  
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)  
CCLI License # 944110

**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**

**JoEllen Axthelm**

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:19-20a**

[Then Moses said to the Israelites,] “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying God, and holding fast to God; for that means life to you and length of days.”

**Hymn**

**Sanctuary**

**TFWS 21643**

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.

**Sermon**

**“Everything Happens for a Reason”**

**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**

**Lord, Be Glorified**

**TFWS 2150**

<sup>1</sup> In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.  
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.

<sup>2</sup>In our home, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.  
In our home, Lord, be glorified today.

<sup>3</sup> In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.  
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

<sup>4</sup> In our prayers, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.  
In our payers, Lord be glorified today.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

**Offertory**

**Sarah Rodocker**

**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** (*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.

### **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 the in person worship please follow the instructions given by the Pastor. The sacrament of communion is open to all persons. Our communion bread is gluten free.*

### **INVITATION**

This table is for all of us, near and far, high and low, east and west and north and south. This table is for all of us, but it is not our table. It's not a Methodist table. It's not an American table. It's God's table, for all of us, and it's a table of grace. So come and take your place at the table. You are welcome, you are invited, you are called: come, let us share this meal together.

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: God be with you. **Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts. **Many: We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to our God.

**Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God, creator and ruler of the universe. Even when we were dust, when our story begins in dust, you were there, your word was there, you breathed into the lifeless chaos. And upon your word all creation sprang into life.

When we were in the wilderness, terrified, timid, you were there, your word was there, with manna just enough for today, with water even from the driest rock, with the abundant grace upon which our story always rests.

And when we fell short, slaves to power and greed, you were there, your word was there, on the lips of prophets, and in the hearts of servants, in stories of revolution and revelation and liberation, calling us even now to acts of courage and witness and peace.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. Indeed blessed are you, O Christ, for risking yourself among us, vulnerable and rejected; for teaching among us, teaching the radical hope of God; teaching grace to a world bent on vengeance, teaching love to a world bent on destruction, teaching peace to a world bent on tearing itself apart. You were there, your word was there, even to the point of death itself. Even faced with terror and hatred and the brokenness of the world, you rose again, to new life, to new creation, to resurrection, that we might know something other than the dust, that we might expect something other than the end, that we might work for something other than ourselves. And so you speak to us again, with these abundant gifts of bread and wine, with which we joyfully celebrate your dying and rising, as we await the table of the Kingdom yet to come, and as we dedicate ourselves again to you, thankful, and transformed, as living and holy sacrifices, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

**Many: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break together, and the cup we share together, may retell our common stories together and reshape our common bonds together, and remember our common grace together, in the communion of your Son Jesus Christ, the one in whose life and death you have torn down our divisions. And so may we be one with all who share this feast, on this day, of all days, with all your children at every corner of your table. May we share this abundant cup with all those who thirst for your justice. May we share this abundant bread with all those who hunger for your righteousness, May we be united with every corner of your story, united in hope, united in vision, united in purpose, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us from this table to be the body of Christ in all the world. Send us with a spirit of courage, a spirit of power and love, that we may be witnesses in all creation to the unending story of your word breathing life into the dust. Keep us faithful, and fruitful, and hopeful, and peaceful, until we come at last to the one table of your Kingdom, to feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm, with you and with your Word, through Christ and in Christ, the one who came for us, died for us, and rose for us, the one who prays even for us,

## **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Gracious God, we offer our thanks, for the whole communion of saints' witness to this feast, and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. By this broken bread may we each be restored for the work yet to come. By this shared cup may we each be claimed for the proclamation of your Kingdom. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise, children of your word, dying and made new again, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace. Amen

Great Thanksgiving from: <https://presbyphl.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2016/>

## Hymn

## Might to Save

### Verse 1

Ev'ryone needs compassion  
Love that's never failing  
Let mercy fall on me  
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness  
The kindness of a Saviour  
The hope of nations (C)

### Chorus

Saviour He can move the mountains  
My God is mighty to save  
He is mighty to save  
Forever Author of salvation  
He rose and conquered the grave  
Jesus conquered the grave

### Verse 2

So take me as You find me  
All my fears and failures  
Fill my life again  
I give my life to follow  
Ev'rything I believe in  
Now I surrender (C)

### Bridge

Shine your light and let the whole world see  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King  
Jesus  
Shine your light and let the whole world see  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King

CCLI Song # 4591782  
Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan  
© 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)  
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)  
CCLI License # 944110

## Benediction

**Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty**

## Postlude

**Sarah Rodocker**

### ***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, 141. Rejoice, ye pure in heart;

rejoice, give thanks, and sing;

your glorious banner wave on high,

the cross of Christ your King.

1400 N. 5th Street, Seward, NE 68434

Phone: 402-643-4156 ~ Fax 402-643-4159

E-mail: [umcseward@gmail.com](mailto:umcseward@gmail.com) ~ Website: [www.sewardumc.org](http://www.sewardumc.org)

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.