



The Promises We Make: A Lenten Worship Series Based on our Membership Vows Seward United Methodist Church Lent 2023

Lent 1: Prayers

First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2023

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Deb Snell

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

L: For our Lenten journey this year, we seek to draw closer to God and become more faithful disciples of Jesus. So we will remember and explore our membership vows for this congregation.

P: The vows we make are the same that United Methodists around the world make when any of us join a United Methodist congregation.

L: These vows provide a way for us to shape our lives and our faith commitments.

P: A life of faith is best lived in community where we are shaped and cradled by fellow disciples.

L: This Lent, may we learn, may we grow, may our faith deepen and strengthen.

P: May it be so. Amen.

Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

TFWS 2197

¹ Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

² Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

³ Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

⁴ Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Common Prayer (unison)

O God who hears our faintest cries, teach us how to pray. When we cannot find the words to pray, read our hearts. When troubles arrive, teach us to make prayer our first response. Amen and amen.

Children's Time

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in God always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. God is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

UMH 526

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

Sermon

Our First Response

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

The cantor names those for whom prayers are made.

The congregation responds: Peace be yours

After each verse: Cantor - For the healing of the nations, we pray to you, O God.

Congregation: For the healing of the nations, we pray to you, O God.

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

God who is always with us, receive the offerings we make today. Teach us to be generous with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that we might be your disciples who make a difference in our world. Amen.

Hymn

Sweet Hour of Prayer

UMH 496

1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Deb Snell