



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

Lent 3: Gifts

Third Sunday in Lent, March 12, 2023

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Sarah Rodocker

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

What Gift Can We Bring

UMH 87

1 What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
what song can we offer in honor and praise?

2 Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,
who planted and watered so dreams could come true.
Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,
for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.

3 Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,
for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring,

the Word is our promise always, forever;
we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.

4 This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!

Lent 3 Common Prayer

Creator God, teach us anew the joy that comes with generosity. Uproot the thorny fears of scarcity that we might recognize your abundance all around us. Help us to share all that we are and have — our talents, our financial resources, our time, our elbow grease. Fill us with joy as we grow in discipleship. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson I Chronicles 29:6-9

⁶Then the leaders of ancestral houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of the thousands and of the hundreds, and the officers over the king's work. ⁷They gave for the service of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. ⁸Whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, into the care of Jehiel the Gershonite. ⁹Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the Lord; King David also rejoiced greatly.

Hymn

Take My Life (and Let it Be)

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be consecrated
Lord to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee

Verse 2

Take my voice and let me sing
Always only for my King
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee
Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry power as You choose

Chorus

Here am I all of me
Take my life it's all for Thee

Verse 3

Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne
Take my love my Lord I pour
At Your feet its treasure store
Take myself and I will be
Ever only all for Thee

CCLI Song # 4162843

Chris Tomlin | Frances Ridley Havergal | Henri Abraham Cesar Malan | Louie Giglio

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Sermon

The Joy of Giving

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn

Live in Charity

TFWS 2179

Live in charity
and steadfast love,
Live in charity;
God will dwell with you.

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.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Hymn

Bless Thou the Gifts

UMH 587

Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought;
bless thou the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
the rest, O God, is in thy hand.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Sarah Rodocker