



The Promises We Make: A Lenten Worship Series Based on our Membership Vows

Seward United Methodist Church

Lent 2023

Lent 4: Service

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 19, 2023

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Megan Forbes

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

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

TFWS 2153

¹I'm going to live so (live so)
God can use me anywhere
Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so (live so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord anytime!

²I'm gonna work so (work so)
God can use me anywhere
Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so (work so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord anytime!

³I'm gonna pray so (pray so)
God can use me anywhere
Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so (pray so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord anytime!

⁴I'm gonna sing so (sing so)
God can use me anywhere
Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so (sing so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord anytime!

Common Prayer

Holy One, put our hands to work in service to you and your kingdom. Make us ever willing to help those in need; to lend a hand with the ministries of our church; to make a difference in our community. Remind us that working together we can accomplish so much. Amen and amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hymn

Christ, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 550

1. Christ, from whom all blessings flow,
perfecting the saints below,
hear us, who thy nature share,
who thy mystic body are.

2. Join us, in one spirit join,
let us still receive of thine;
still for more on thee we call,
thou who fillest all in all.

3. Move and actuate and guide,
diverse gifts to each divide;
placed according to thy will,
let us all our work fulfill;

4. Never from thy service move,
needful to each other prove;
use the grace on each bestowed,
tempered by the art of God.

5. Many are we now, and one,
we who Jesus have put on;
there is neither bond nor free,
male nor female, Lord, in thee.

6. Love, like death, hath all destroyed,
rendered all distinctions void;
names and sects and parties fall;
thou, O Christ, art all in all!

Sermon

"Hands to Work, Hearts to God"

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn

The Servant Song

TFWS 2222

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.

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

Sent Out in Jesus' Name

TFWS 2184

Refrain

Sent out in Jesus' name,
our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do,
to set it really free.
O help us to obey
and carry out your will. (R)

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Megan Forbes