



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

Seward United Methodist Church

Lent 2023

Lent 5: Witness

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 26, 2023

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Pam McConnell

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

Pass It On

UMH 572

1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love
once you've experienced it; you spread his love to everyone;
you want to pass it on.

2. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love
once you've experienced it; you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

3. I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found;
you can depend on him, it matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know; the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

Common Prayer

Empower us, O God, to be witnesses of your love and grace with all we meet. Give us the courage to invite family, neighbors, friends to church. Help us to live our daily lives in such a way that people know we are disciples of Jesus. Amen and amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Special Music

How Excellent How Your Ways

Chancel Choir

Scripture Lesson Luke 24:44-49

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

TFWS 2223

¹We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord
and we pray that all unity
May one day be restored: (R)

²We will walk with each other,
we walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other,
we walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land: (R)

³We will work with each other
We will work side by side
we will work with each other
we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity
And save human pride: (R)

⁴All praise to the Father,
from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus
God's only Son
and all praise to the Spirit,
who makes us one: (R)

^RAnd they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Sermon

"Called To Witness"

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn

Open My Eyes, That I May See

UMH 454, v. 3

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;

open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory
Doxology

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Handbell Choir

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

Go Make A Difference

Chorus

Go make a diff'rence
We can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence
We can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world

Verse 1

We are the salt of the earth
Called to let the people see
The love of God in you and me
We are the light of the world
Not to be hidden but be seen
Go make a diff'rence in the world (C)

Verse 2

We are the hands of Christ
Reaching out to those in need
The face of God for all to see
We are the spirit of hope
We are the voice of peace
Go make a diff'rence in the world (C)

Verse 3

So let your love shine on
Let it shine for all to see
Go make a diff'rence in the world
And the Spirit of Christ
Will be with us as we go
Go make a diff'rence in the world (C)

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Benediction

Postlude

Pam McConnell