



# Seward United Methodist Church

## Consecration of South Addition

March 5, 2023

### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude**

**Come, Now Is Time To Worship**

**Chancel Choir**

### 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**

**Because of Your Love**

**Praise Team**

Verse

As we come into Your presence  
We remember ev'ry blessing  
That You've poured out so freely from above  
Lifting gratitude and praises  
For compassion so amazing  
Lord we've come to give You thanks  
For all You've done

Chorus

Because of Your love we're forgiven  
Because of Your love our hearts are clean  
We lift You up with songs of freedom  
Forever we're changed because of Your love

CCLI Song # 4662501  
Brenton Brown | Paul Baloche  
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### Common Prayer

Remind us, O God, of the importance of showing up. Help us see the difference it makes in our lives to be involved in the worship and ministries of this congregation. Make us faithful to attend and engage. Amen and amen.

**Children's Time**

**Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm**

## Church Clap

Liturgical Dancers & UMYF

### Welcome New Members – Bob & Carolyn Prachiel

#### Scripture Lesson: Hebrews 10:24-25

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

#### Hymn

#### We Are the Church

UMH 558, v. 1-4

[Refrain:]

I am the church! You are the church!  
We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!  
Yes, we're the church together!

1 The church is not a building,  
the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place,  
the church is a people.  
(Refrain)

2 We're many kinds of people,  
with many kinds of faces,  
all colors and all ages, too,  
from all times and places.  
(Refrain)

3 Sometimes the church is marching,  
sometimes it's bravely burning,  
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding,  
always it's learning.  
(Refrain)

4 And when the people gather,  
there's singing and there's praying,  
there's laughing and there's crying  
sometimes, all of it saying:  
(Refrain)

#### Sermon

#### “Presence”

Rev. Dr. Nancy Tomlinson

#### Prayers of the People

#### Prayer Hymn

#### Surely the Presence of the Lord

UMH 328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;  
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.  
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,  
I see glory on each face;  
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Sharing Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

#### Moment of Appreciation – Matt Hastings

#### Offering

Offertory  
Doxology

#### A Festive Intrada

#### 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.

**Celebration of Holy Communion  
Invitation to Communion**

**Bishop David Wilson**

**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day  
when justice shall roll down like waters  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,  
when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.  
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God ), now and for ever.

**Amen.**

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**Hymn**

**We Are Marching**

**TFWS 2235-b**

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching . . . Ooo we are marching in light of God.  
We are marching . . . Ooo we are marching in light of God.

We are singing . . .

We are praying . . .

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Passing of the Peace** (exchange signs of peace as we make our way outside for the Ribbon Cutting)

Processional to the New Front Doors

**PRESENTATION OF THE BUILDING ADDITION – Mr. Tom Hanson**

We present this building addition to be consecrated  
for the worship of God and the service of all people.

**CONSECRATION OF THE BUILDING** (adapted from UM BOW)

**Bishop Wilson:** Dear friends, rejoice that God so moved the hearts of people  
that this house has been built for praise, prayer, welcome, and ministry.  
Let us now consecrate it for service and celebrate its holy use.

*Several persons may lead sections of the following prayer of consecration, which the officiating minister should begin and conclude:*

**Rev. Tomlinson:** O eternal God, mighty in power and of incomprehensible majesty,  
whom the heavens cannot contain,  
much less the walls of temples made with hands,

you have promised your special presence  
whenever your people gather to do the work of ministry.

**Mrs. Moore:** By the power of your Holy Spirit consecrate this house of your worship.  
Bless us and sanctify what we do here,  
that this place may be holy for us and a place of welcome for all people.

**Mr. Hanson:** Guide and empower in this place by the same Spirit  
The daily work of ministry and administration  
The grace-filled work of welcome and hospitality  
Let all who enter this space find acceptance and grace  
Guard and protect all who work here and visit this building

**Rev. Totty:** Save us from that failure of vision  
which would confine our ministry within these walls,  
but send us out from here to be your servants in the world,  
sharing the blessings of Christ with the world he came to redeem.

*The officiating minister concludes:*

**Bishop Wilson:** Now, O God, sanctify this place,  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
Yours is the dominion, and you are exalted as head above all.

**Prayer of Blessing – Bishop Wilson or Rev. Tomlinson**

### **Ribbon Cutting**

Folks enter

- 1) Any who were present when this church building first opened
- 2) Any who need a little more time getting in
- 3) Children and their adults
- 4) Everybody else