



Seward United Methodist Church
May 28, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Megan Forbes

Passing the Peace

Call to worship: (source: *Dr. Lisa Hancock*)

Like the disciples, we gather in this space, united by our relationship with the Risen Christ.

We come ready to receive what God has to give.

Just as tongues of fire descended on the disciples,

We receive the gift of the Spirit's power and inspiration.

Just as the resurrected Christ breathed the Spirit onto the disciples,

We receive the gift of the Spirit's peace and wisdom.

As the lifegiving and peacemaking Holy Spirit blazes through us today,

We receive the gift of the Spirit's fire that unites us as the Body of Christ. Amen.

Hymn

Shine, Jesus, Shine

TFWS 2173

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory,
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire;
flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy,
send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light.

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me. (R)

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me. (R)

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. (R)

Opening Prayer Together (source: *Marilyn E. Thornton*)

Open Your Hand to Us, O God. O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all. Open your hand to us, O God, giver of good things. Do not hide your face from us. Should you remove your Spirit from us, we shall surely return to the dust. Send forth your Spirit in this worship service today and let us be re-created. Renew us, O God, with your spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 104:24-35

²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.
²⁵ There is the sea, great and wide;
 creeping things innumerable are there,
 living things both small and great.
²⁶ There go the ships
 and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
²⁷ These all look to you
 to give them their food in due season;
²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up;
 when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
 when you take away their breath, they die
 and return to their dust.
³⁰ When you send forth your spirit,^[a] they are created,
 and you renew the face of the ground.
³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
 may the LORD rejoice in his works—
³² who looks on the earth and it trembles,
 who touches the mountains and they smoke.
³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
 I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
 for I rejoice in the LORD.
³⁵ Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
 and let the wicked be no more.
 Bless the LORD, O my soul.
 Praise the LORD!

John 20:19-23

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

John 7:37-39

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Hymn

Blessed Jesus, as Thy Word

UMH 596

1. Blessed Jesus, at thy word
 we are gathered all to hear thee;
 let our hearts and souls be stirred
 now to seek and love and fear thee,
 by thy teachings sweet and holy,
 drawn from earth to love thee solely.

2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight
 lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
 till thy spirit breaks our night
 with the beams of truth unclouded.
 Thou alone to God canst win us;
 thou must work all good within us.

3. Glorious Lord, thyself impart!
Light of light, from God proceeding,
open thou our ears and heart;
help us by thy spirit's pleading;
hear the cry thy people raises;
hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

Sermon Wind, Water, and Fire ... Our heart's respond! Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Prayer of Confession: (after sermon... source: *Scott Aniol*)

Almighty God,
who sent the promised Holy Spirit
to fill disciples with willing faith:
We confess that we resist the work of your Spirit among us,
that we are slow to serve you
and reluctant to spread the good news of your love.
God, have mercy on us.
Forgive our divisions
and by your Spirit draw us together.
Create in us a desire to do your will
and be your faithful people
for the sake of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place

Words & Music: Mark Miller

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1. There's a spirit of love in this place,
There's a spirit of love in this place.
You can't see it, but it's there
Just as precious as the air.
There's a spirit of love in this place.

2. There's the presence of peace in this room,
There's the presence of peace in this room.
In God's tenderness is found
Peace that passes human bounds.
There's the presence of peace in this room. (R)

R. O alleluia, sing alleluia!
We bless your holy name.
O alleluia, sing alleluia!
There's a spirit of love in this place.

Sharing Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

Offertory Prayer (Source: Discipleship Ministries)

God of wind and flame: set us on fire this morning as we celebrate the explosion of your Holy Spirit coming into the world on the Day of Pentecost! Remind us that the gift you gave that day was not just the gift to speak in different tongues, but also the gift of hearing and comprehension. May your Holy Spirit keep us attuned to the voices all around us, to those who need us to be bearers of your love and compassion, and may these gifts we give help us, through your church, meet those needs. In the holy name of Jesus we pray. Amen. (Acts 2:1-21).

Doxology**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow****UMH 94**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts! Praise the Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn**Fill My Cup, Lord****UMH 641**

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord.
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

Benediction**Postlude****Megan Forbes**