

Aldersgate United Methodist Church



January 22, 2023
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Joseph Rafique
Keyboardist : Deanna Steward
Organist: Jan Malone
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
Digital Media Specialist: Nancy Taylor
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann
Child Care Attendant: Katie Softley
Custodian: Scott Hoyt

9:00 a.m.
With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward
Greeter: Dan Steward

11:00 a.m. Service
Lector: Jan Malone

**Aldersgate
United Methodist Church**
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*Worshippers are welcomed to use their own terminology for God.
If you are considering membership, please contact our pastor, 402-489-1510.*



January 22, 2023

Greeting and Announcements (9:00 *John*, 11:00 *Joseph*)

Music for Centering Prayer (9) “Softly and Tenderly” — arr. Mark Hayes
(11) “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” — folk tune from India

Call to Worship (9 *John*, 11 *Joseph*)

PASTOR: Come people of God to behold the beauty of our God. Come as you are for God is calling you in Christ.

ALL: **We will sing and make melody to God. We will dare to lift up shouts of joy as we come to worship.**

PASTOR: We come together in worship to praise the One who reminds us to whom we belong.

ALL: **We belong here in this family of faith. We belong to each other and to our God. Praise God.**

Opening Prayer (9 *John*, 11 *Joseph*)

PASTOR: God, you are our light and salvation. Still, we fear and hesitate to follow your direction. There is so much that remains unknown and uncertain as we follow you and we want surety and security. We push against you, but you will not push us away. In love you hold us close.

ALL: **When we wonder what the day might bring, you whisper, “follow my beloved Son and I will make you: readers to little children, providers of rides to those in need, bandagers of bruised hearts, lovers of the lonely and forsaken, pilgrims who show the way to others.” We ask for your strength and peace as we say yes to the tasks you assign us. Hear our cries and answer us with your endless grace and love. We claim you as our joy which comes to us each day in Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

Hymn #158 (red)

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

3. Praise yet the Lord again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

WORDS: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843
MUSIC: Trad. melody; arr. by Benjamin Carr, 1824;
harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1963, © 1964 Abingdon Press

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Jesus came to Galilee with the message of John the Baptist: repent, for God's kingdom has come near. His invitation went out to common everyday folks: follow me. We, too, are called to repent

and to follow.

ALL: **Turn our lives around, God. Help us to identify in ourselves those parts of us that need to change if we are to experience your joy. Too long we have been hiding in the shadows, reluctant to express our faith. Too long we have shunned the light, afraid of what might be exposed. Too long we have avoided people with whom we have a quarrel, refusing to build bridges across our differences. Forgive us. Forgive us for our preoccupation and our self-importance. Call us again to seek your face and follow the Christ. We are listening now.**

(pause)

PASTOR: Dear child of God, God is gracious and reaches out to welcome you. You are free to accept the invitation to follow Jesus. There is good news of forgiveness and healing to be experienced and shared. Own it and spread it. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer #895 (red, Joseph)

PASTOR: Gracious God, you have called us by name and invited us to be your disciples. You have claimed us as your children and we are grateful. We are grateful for the gift of this day and this beautiful planet where we live, work, worship and play.

ALL: **Help us preserve its beauty and the natural life it supports.**

PASTOR: We are grateful for the communities in which we live.

ALL: **Grant us willing hearts and hands to make them places of welcome, work and opportunity.**

PASTOR: We are grateful for the people in our lives: our co-workers, neighbors, friends and families; those near and far, those we see often and those we can only see in our fondest memories. We call on you to be near to those whose lives, bodies and spirits are broken. We pray especially for. . . .
(pause) For this we say,

ALL: **Lord, come with good news of health and wholeness for everyone.**

PASTOR: We call on you to come to our family, our city, our nation, our world, to still the quarrels and dissolve the enmity among us. Give wisdom and prudence to our leaders, that they may seek to do your will. For this we say,

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We call on you to bring peace where conflict rages and comfort where despair looms large. May your children enjoy the life you intend for them. For this we say,

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: God, we thank you for you have always heard when your children call upon you. In your mercy, please listen to the prayers that we have offered and grant that your children may feel the full effect of these prayers in their life for we pray in the name of Jesus who taught his disciples to pray saying:

ALL: **Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Hymn #2130 (9:00 black)

“The Summons”

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
 Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
 Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
 and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
 Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
 Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
 In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
 Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

WORDS: John Bell © 1987

MUSIC: Traditional Scottish tune; arr. by John Bell

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Special Music (11:00)

“Softly and Tenderly” — *Aldersgate Choir*

God’s Word Proclaimed (9 *John*, 11 *Jan*)

I Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon (*Joseph*)

“Fans or Followers?”

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: We are called to follow, yet are often slow to respond, God of grace. We are blessed with more than we ever need or can use, yet we are reluctant to part with even a portion of this abundance.

ALL: **Lord God, in our giving of all that we are and have, show us how to follow Jesus who gave us all that he had. As we offer our gifts to you, remind us that learning generosity is part of our call to follow the One who models your gracious nature in every word, every gesture, every day. It is in his name that we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #593 (red)

“Here I Am, Lord”

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

WORDS and MUSIC: Dan Schutte, 1981; adapt. by Carlton R. Young, 1988
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Commissioning and Blessing (*John*)

PASTOR: People of light, turn to face a new week as Jesus' disciples.

ALL: **God is our light. We will not be afraid to claim Jesus as our teacher and model.**

PASTOR: People of commitment, dare to follow Jesus.

ALL: **Christ is our example and our leader. We will care enough to help, to serve and to fish for people.**

PASTOR: God is gracious to us and blesses us and sends us to be a blessing to others. Go now, beloved, to follow the love of God, to rejoice in God's choice of you and to lift your voice for love and compassion. Dare to believe that as disciples you are people on a mission of healing and grace. Amen.

ALL: **So be it. Amen.**

Postlude (9)
(11)

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" — arr. Mark Hayes
"The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation" — F. Allitsen
(based on Psalm 27)

Announcements

Today, January 22 Lunar New Year

9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463>. Or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org or on YouTube on the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska channel.

10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School — Room 2

10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School — Room 1

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

12:15 p.m. Light lunch and viewing of film on Dietrich Bonhoeffer — Fellowship Hall

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>

Meeting ID: 812 243 946

Password: 021075

One tap mobile +12532158782,,812243946#,,1#,021075# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>



Tuesday, January 24 National Peanut Butter Day

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81778191841?pwd=aVNobS9qU2FabmdrZlJScU8wSkVHQT09>

Meeting ID: 817 7819 1841

Passcode: 832006

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,81778191841#,,, *832006# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81778191841?pwd=aVNobS9qU2FabmdrZlJScU8wSkVHQT09>



Wednesday, January 25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, January 26 National Spouses Day

12:30 p.m. Prayer and Worship Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn

Friday, January 27 National Chocolate Cake Day

8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4

Saturday, January 28 National Blueberry Pancake Day

10:00 a.m. Nebraska Herbal Society — Sunshine Room

4:30 p.m. India Association of Lincoln — Sunshine Room

Next Sunday, January 29 National Puzzle Day

9:00 a.m. Hymn Sing — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463>. Or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org or on YouTube on the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska channel.

10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School — Room 2

10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School — Room 1

11:00 a.m. Hymn Sing — Worship Center

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Next Monday, January 30 **National Croissant Day**

7:00 p.m. Spiritual Living and Worship Planning Team — Room 4

Wednesday, February 1 **Change Your Password Day**

1:30 p.m. Book Club *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin — zoom

Saturday, February 4 **National Homemade Soup Day**

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Groundhog Lunch (choice of sausage gravy on biscuits, hot dogs, ham salad or BBQ sandwiches, chicken noodle soup or chili) — Unadilla U.M. Church, 472 F St. Take out is available. Free-will donation.

Tuesday, February 7 **Send a Card to a Friend Day**

11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th

Friday, February 10 **Umbrella Day**

6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 11 **National Inventor's Day**

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day — Christ U.M. Church, 4530 'A' St. Cost of \$20 includes lunch. Register for your choice of 2 workshops by Feb. 4 at www.nelegisbrief.org.

10:00 a.m. Bishop Wilson's Installation — Countryside U.M. Church, Topeka, KS

Monday, February 13 **World Radio Day**

1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith "Who Is this Jesus? What does He have to do with my money?"— Room 4

Wednesday, February 15 **National Gumdrop Day**

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, February 16 **National Almond Day**

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom

Saturday, February 18

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

Tuesday, February 21 **National Sticky Bun Day**

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell — Room 4

Wednesday, February 22 **Ash Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. Worship — Worship Center and online

Tuesday, February 28 **National Tooth Fairy Day**

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — zoom

Wednesday, March 1 **World Compliment Day**

1:30 p.m. Book Club *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell — zoom

Tuesday, March 7 **National Cereal Day**

11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th

Friday, March 10 **Middle Name Pride Day**

6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Room 4

Monday, March 13 **National Jewel Day**

1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith — Room 4