March 21, 2021
9:30 a.m.
Fifth Sunday in Lent

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Song Leaders: Dan Steward and
Julie Clopper-Smith
Videographer: Nancy Taylor

Ministers: All of Aldersgate’s Members
Pastor: Joseph Rafique
Organist: Jan Malone
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann
Custodian: Scott Hoyt

Worshippers are welcomed to use their own terminology for God.
If you are considering membership, please contact our pastor, 402-489-1510.
Order of Worship
March 21, 2021

Prelude
“The Old Rugged Cross” — G. Bennard

Welcome (Julie)

Call to Worship (John)

PASTOR: Whenever in life we turn toward God, we find God already turned toward us.
ALL: God is present, gracious, and good.
PASTOR: In times of sorrow and weeping, as in gladness and rejoicing,
ALL: God is present, gracious, and good.
PASTOR: In times of illness and pain, fear and loss,
ALL: God is present, gracious, and good.
PASTOR: Let us worship God with thanksgiving.
ALL: God is present, gracious, and good. Praise be to God!

Opening Prayer (John)

PASTOR: As Jesus offered up prayers and supplications to you, O God, we cry out to you today.
You know our losses and our fears. You understand our suffering and pain.
ALL: We wish to see Jesus, to know the healing touch felt by so many. We wish to see Jesus not to prove a theory, but to experience a presence, not to observe from a distance, but to become involved, not just to listen, but to follow and to serve. We want to hear a reassuring voice. We long to see a new day when evil is overcome and wrong cannot prevail.
PASTOR: Lift us up and draw us to yourself as we worship in this hour. Equip us for our daily living as we seek to be true to your covenant with us. In Jesus’ name we ask. Amen.

Hymn #127 (red)

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and the author, 1771
MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (Joseph) based on Psalm 51:1-12

PASTOR: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
ALL: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
PASTOR: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

PASTOR: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

ALL: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

PASTOR: For God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. We are forgiven, praise be to God!

ALL: Amen.

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

PASTOR: Loving God, we pray for your church and its ministry around the world. Let your church be a beacon of light for all to know you. God in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: God of all, we pray for your faithful followers, our siblings in Christ. Help us serve you with one heart and mind and be ready to die for the sake of truth and justice. God in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: We pray for this community and for all online viewers and for all the joys and sorrows we share with you silently or out loud. Keep us strong in our faith through thick and thin. God in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: Creator God, we pray for those who are on our church’s prayer list and those who have personally asked us for prayers. We also pray for the abundance of joy and many more healthy years to come for those who celebrate their birthday or wedding anniversary today or in the week to come. God in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: God, may the law of love written on our hearts become our song as we journey. A song with words that comfort when hardships on the road burden us. Grant that no matter where we are, we will always know, deep in our hearts, you and your ways. Help us to hold on to our faith in you. Hear these and all our prayers, in Jesus’ name, who taught his disciples to pray:

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 #601 (red) “Thy Word Is a Lamp”

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way,
still you’re there right beside me, and nothing will I fear
as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

2. Now I will not forget your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering.

Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side,
and I will love you to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

WORDS: Amy Grant, 1984
MUSIC: Michael W. Smith 1984; arr. by Keith Phillips © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Co. / Bug and Bear Music

God’s Word Proclaimed John 12:20-33

JOHN: Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them,
JOSEPH: The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — “Father, save me from this hour?” No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.

JOHN: Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered,

JOSEPH: This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

JOHN: He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**Good News for Kids (John)**

**Sermon (John)**

“Turn It Loose and Let It Go”

**Prayer of Dedication (John)**

Gracious God, you renew hope when we feel most hopeless for ourselves, the conditions in our own lives, and in the world. You have shown us in Jesus that there is more to come than what we presently see. We believe in this new life that Jesus offers through dying for ourselves, for the church, society, and all creation. With faith we make our offering as an expression of that life. Accept and bless it for the glory of your name and for the good of your people. In Christ’s name we ask. Amen.

**Hymn #2158 (black, vs. 1-2)**

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I’ll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

WORDS and MUSIC: Anon.

**Prayer for Coronavirus Victims and Those Attending Them (Joseph)**

**Commissioning and Blessing (Joseph)**

PASTOR: We are people of God, accepted, valued and loved.
ALL: We are followers of Christ, commissioned for service.
PASTOR: Where Christ leads, we will follow.
ALL: Where our service is needed, we will go.
PASTOR: Go to die like the seed to gain life and to give life. With your words, sing hope. With your actions, dance peace. With your being, play love. In the name of God, the Creator, Jesus the Savior and Holy Spirit the Sustainer. Amen.
ALL: Amen.

**Postlude**

“Morning Has Broken” — Gaelic melody
Today, March 21, 2021
9:30 a.m. Online Worship on www.aldersgatelinc.org or our Facebook page  Limit of 10 in attendance.
9:40a Youth Sunday School — zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88069175128?pwd=Sm85R3VWMlhVY0c5c3BoSkRBNUhuUT09
Meeting ID: 880 6917 5128
Passcode: 991876
One tap mobile +16699006833,,88069175128#,,,,0#,,991876# US (San Jose)
Dial by your location
 +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 880 6917 5128
Passcode: 991876
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keeyuVYaqo
11:00 a.m. Worship Watch Party — Fireside Room, Legacy Estates
1:00 p.m. Virtual Coffee “hour” — zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRS QuinnZjrQjlyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09
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)
Meeting ID: 812 243 946
Password: 021075
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcFkfw3laD
1:30 p.m. A.R.M. Youth Group — zoom

Monday
4:00 p.m. Serving/Fellowshipping Key Result Team — zoom
7:00 p.m. Worship Planning Team — zoom

Wednesday
7:00 p.m. Civil War Roundtable — Sunshine Room

Thursday
9:00 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Sunshine Room
2:30 p.m. Connected & Caring Prayer Meeting — zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81488353446?pwd=YVRqT1Z3NncvSWFmekNIT3dWZFpidz09
Meeting ID: 814 8835 3446
Passcode: 848320
Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 814 8835 3446
Passcode: 848320
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbE5F9y7tN
6:00 p.m. Climate Care Discussion — zoom

Fridays
8:30 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Sunshine Room
Next Sunday, March 28  Palm Sunday
9a Children’s Sunday School — zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88069175128?pwd=Sm85R3VMhVY0c5c3BoSkRBUHuUT09
Meeting ID: 880 6917 5128
Passcode: 991876
One tap mobile
+16699006833,,88069175128#,,,,,0#,,991876# US (San Jose)
Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 880 6917 5128
Passcode: 991876
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keeyuVYaqo
9:30 a.m. Online Worship on www.aldersgatelin.org or our Facebook page  Limit of 10 in attendance.
9:40a Youth Sunday School — zoom (same link as the Children’s Sunday School)
11:00 a.m. Worship Watch Party — Fireside Room, Legacy Estates
1:00 p.m. Virtual Coffee “hour” — zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=cIRSQUIlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09
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)
Meeting ID: 812 243 946
Password: 021075
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcFkfw3laD
1:30 p.m. A.R.M. Youth Group — zoom

April 4  Easter
9:30 a.m. Worship and Communion — Worship Center and Online
11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion — Worship Center

Tuesday, April 6
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  Election Day — Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 7
1:30 p.m. Book Club Stella Bain by Anita Shreve — zoom

Sunday, April 11
9:40 a.m.  Confirmation

Tuesday, April 20
7:00 p.m. Book Club The Mothers: A Novel by Brit Bennett — zoom

Wednesday, May 5
1:30 p.m. Book Club Lions of Fifth Avenue: A Novel by Fiona Davis — zoom

Tuesday, May 18
7:00 p.m. Book Club Lions of Fifth Avenue: A Novel by Fiona Davis — zoom

Sunday, May 23
11:00 a.m. Worship and Confirmation — Worship Center

Wednesday, May 26 – Saturday, May 29
Great Plains Annual Conference — Topeka, KS