

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**April 11, 2021**  
Second Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m.  
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  
Keyboardist: Deanna Steward  
Organist: Jan Malone  
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith  
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann  
Custodian: Scott Hoyt

“Stop doubting  
*and*  
**BELIEVE.**”



JOHN 20:27, NIV

**Aldersgate  
United Methodist Church**  
8320 South Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506-6540  
[www.aldersgatelinc.org](http://www.aldersgatelinc.org)  
402-489-1510 (church office)  
[aldersgatelinc@windstream.net](mailto:aldersgatelinc@windstream.net)

**Joseph Rafique, Pastor**  
402-499-7101 (cell)  
402-483-7250 (home)  
[jrafique@GreatPlainsUMC.org](mailto:jrafique@GreatPlainsUMC.org)

---

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



April 11, 2021

**Prelude** 9:30  
11:00

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” — arr. Tracey McKibben  
“Christ Arose!” — R. Lowry

**Announcements** (*Julie*)

**Introduction** (*Joseph*)

Churches tend to pull back a little bit (or a lot) on this Second Sunday of Easter. Surely, we cannot sustain the energy and passion past the day itself, can we? Well, maybe there are some aspects of post-Easter worship that would be hard to sustain, but we need to avoid sending the message that the fun is over and we are back to “ho hum” or “same old, same old” again. Find something unusual to do on this “Low” Sunday, something that stands out and announces that the Resurrection continues. Now we want to see it. Like the apostle Thomas, we want to live our resurrection faith outwardly. So, what can we do in this time of worship that is an outward expression of our belief in the power of Easter? What hope, what joy, what grace can we show to one another and then to the world as we gather for worship? We are familiar with the ways that we as a community help people get past their doubt by seeing the person of Christ in the love and caring and service of individuals and the congregation as a whole. Today is the time to draw attention to those ways. Remember, this season is “of Easter,” not “after Easter.” That seems to mean that we maintain the Easter experience throughout. Let us keep celebrating.

**Call to Worship** (9:30 *Joseph*, 11 *Julie*)

PASTOR: Last Sunday was Easter, a day on which the only fitting call to worship was an announcement of the Event — the resurrection. Through it, God let us laugh at our death sentence by punctuating it with a living exclamation mark. On this day and in the days to come, may we remember that there are times when God restates the joyful resurrection proclamation. It is the Sunday after Easter; the lilies are gone.

ALL: **And we are alone with our faith.**

PASTOR: Thomas said: “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

ALL: **Easter is past, and we are alone with our faith.**

**Opening Prayer** (9:30 *Joseph*, 11 *Julie*)

PASTOR: Ever-living God, on this Sunday after Easter, help us grow into the faith that we confessed and celebrated last week. Reveal evidence of your resurrection for the days when we feel that we are alone with our faith. This morning we pray for people here who are filled with doubts, who wonder whether you exist and whether you are listening to our prayers, who wonder what this whole community is about. We pray for people who doubt the purpose of life, who wonder whether to end it all, who face feelings of meaningless and despair.

ALL: **Even when we have that sinking feeling, give us the wisdom to turn to you. Lord we want to believe, help our unbelief! Give us faith, small as a mustard seed, so that we can be your faithful people, believing in your power to save, believing in your power to reign supreme, believing that we can share this good news with everyone we meet. We ask all this in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.**

**Hymn** (St. Paul U.M.C.)

“Thine Be the Glory”

### **Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (*John*)**

ALL: **We have taken the name Christian, but few of us are known primarily by that name. We have experienced Easter radiance, but we seldom reflect the light of our risen Savior. We have heard the message of salvation, but it grows cold on our lips and is of little influence on our lives. Sometimes we delude ourselves that, because we are basically good people, there is no sin in us. We deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, sin is separation from you, and we have allowed great chasms and built high walls to keep you out of our lives. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.**

PASTOR: The apostle John, wrote to the early church: "If we walk in the light as Christ is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. . . . If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us." Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sin. When we are one with God through Christ, we extend forgiveness to our sisters and brothers, that all may come to faith and have life in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Prayers of the People, Answered Prayers and Lord's Prayer #895 (red) (*John*)**

PASTOR: You call us to be people of faith, yet we are often people with doubts. We doubt that love can grow again in relationships where anger and bitterness reign supreme. You know the strength of love and the power of prayer: help us to be faithful. We pray to the Lord,

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

PASTOR: We doubt that peace can come in Yemen, in Syria, in Palestine; in Myanmar, where hatred and racism reign supreme. You know that efforts of peace are growing there: help us to be faithful peacemakers.

We pray to the Lord,

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

PASTOR: We doubt that the hungry can be fed in Africa, where despair and hopelessness reign supreme. You know that there is enough food in the world; help us to be generous and faithful.

We pray to the Lord,

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

PASTOR: You specialize in impossibilities; you walked on water, you heal the nations, you forgive sins, you set the captive free, set us free from our captivities of body, mind and spirit. We pray to the Lord,

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

PASTOR: Please add your prayer needs in silence or out loud. (pause) We pray to the Lord,

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

PASTOR: Let us now wrap up these and all our prayer needs in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:

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 (Central U.M.C, Lawrence, KS) "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"**

#### **Prayer before the Reading of Scripture (9:30 *Joseph*, 11 *Julie*)**

Resurrected God, though we have hidden ourselves in a locked room and huddled together as ones who build barriers, send your Living Word through our locked doors and into our guarded hearts that we might be witnesses of your grace and couriers of your goodness. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant us the trust to believe the Gospel not because we see it but because we have been seen by it and transformed through it. Amen.

#### **God's Word Proclaimed John 20:19-31**

NARRATOR: 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,

JESUS: Peace be with you.

NARRATOR: After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again,

JESUS: 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

NARRATOR: When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

JESUS: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.

NARRATOR: But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them,

THOMAS: Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.

NARRATOR: A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

JESUS: Peace be with you. Thomas, put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.

THOMAS: My Lord and my God!

JESUS: Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

NARRATOR: Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

### **Good News for Kids** (*Joseph*)

**Sermon** (Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr.) "The Elephant in the Room"

### **Prayer of Dedication** (*Joseph*)

Ever-present God, we desire to walk in the warmth of your sacred light. We testify all that we have seen, heard, and felt. We declare your matchless grace so that all may hear. Thank you for meeting us where we are. We sense that you are sending us, as Jesus was sent, to share light with the world. Thus, we dedicate our time and efforts as a further offering. Grant us your peace in the face of uncertainty. Help us to live as those who have encountered the resurrected Christ. Amen.

### **Hymn #94** (red)

#### **"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

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 uplifts!  
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978  
 MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906  
 Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

### **Prayer for Coronavirus Victims and Those Attending Them** (*John*)

#### **Commissioning and Blessing** (*John*) based on John 20:21-22

PASTOR: Jesus said: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am now sending you." He believes in you. The busy world awaits your compassion.

ALL: **God believes in us.**

PASTOR: Sometimes you will give your best yet fail.

ALL: **God believes in us.**

PASTOR: At other times you will succeed in spite of your stumbling.

ALL: **God believes in us.**

PASTOR: Go gladly, daring to succeed or fail to the glory of God, and then at the very end, nothing shall dismay you.

ALL: **God believes in us with Christ's own breath within us, we shall travel well.**

PASTOR: The help of the saving Christ, the wisdom of the Living God, and the support of the loving Spirit, will be with you every step of the way, now and always. Amen.

Postlude 9:30  
11:00

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” — arr. Joel Raney  
“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done” — arr. K. Ford

## Announcements

.....

### Today, April 11, 2021

9:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center or on our Facebook page. The service may be viewed at your convenience at [www.aldersgatelinc.org](http://www.aldersgatelinc.org).

10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class — Room 4 or zoom

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

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=c1RSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>

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/j/812243946?pwd=c1RSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>

8:00 p.m. A.R.M. Youth Group — zoom



### Monday

1:30 p.m. U.M. Women Executive Meeting — zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81745324893?pwd=dzd6QXNOS2FtWG9DL3UvdjJjR1I3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 817 4532 4893

Passcode: 848320

Dial by your location

[+1 312 626 6799](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81745324893?pwd=dzd6QXNOS2FtWG9DL3UvdjJjR1I3Zz09)US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 817 4532 4893

Passcode: 848320

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81745324893?pwd=dzd6QXNOS2FtWG9DL3UvdjJjR1I3Zz09>

7:00 p.m. Trustees — zoom

### Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Celebration & Thanksgiving Planning Team — zoom

### Thursday

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/j/81488353446?pwd=YVRqT1Z3NncvSWFmekNIT3dWZFPidz09>

**Friday**

8:30 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Sunshine Room

**Saturday**

9:00 a.m. District U.M. Women Spring Meeting — Elmwood or zoom

**Next Sunday, April 18**

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School — zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88069175128?pwd=Sm85R3VWMIhVY0c5c3BoSkRBNUhuUT09>

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/j/88069175128?pwd=Sm85R3VWMIhVY0c5c3BoSkRBNUhuUT09>

9:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and Online

10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class — Room 4 or zoom

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

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=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)

Meeting ID: 812 243 946

Password: 021075

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHK0aTZvQzFMQT09>

8:00 p.m. A.R.M. Youth Group — zoom

**Next Monday, April 19**

7:00 p.m. Church Council — zoom

**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 — Grand Island

**Wednesday, June 2**

1:30 p.m. Book Club *St. Francis Society of Wayward Pets: A Novel* by Annie England Noblin — zoom