Aldersgate
United Methodist Church

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

April 25, 2021
World Malaria Day

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

Aldersgate
United Methodist Church
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Joseph Rafique, Pastor
402-499-7101 (cell)
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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.
Order of Worship
April 25, 2021

Prelude 9:30
11:00
“Gentle Shepherd” — arr. Carol Tornquist
“Shepherd Medley” — arr. D. Wood

Greeting (Julie)

Readiness 360 (11)  District Superintendent Nancy Tomlinson

Call to Worship (9:30 Joseph, 11 Lector)
PASTOR: The Good Shepherd invites us to green pastures and refreshing still waters.
ALL: We have been given everything we have. God offers us everything we need.
PASTOR: When we walk through darkest valleys, God is with us. We are comforted and reassured.
ALL: God leads us in the right paths. Our cups are filled to overflowing.
PASTOR: God welcomes us to the table where love is expressed.
ALL: We have received plenty that we might share. We are called to be God’s helpers.
PASTOR: Come, let us worship this generous and loving God.

Opening Prayer (9:30 Nancy, 11 Lector)
PASTOR: Loving and living God, we gather together today, guided by you, our Shepherd. You protect and care for us; you lead us as we journey through life. During this time of worship,
ALL: we ask that our ears are open to hear your word, our eyes are open to see your light, our hearts are open to feel your love. As your sheep, we know love, and we have heard the commandment to love one another. May our worship be a testament to your love and our dedication to love one another. In the name of the risen Christ we ask. Amen.

Hymn #307 (red, 9:30) “Christ Is Risen”
Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

2. Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend;
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

3. Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: “Christ is risen! Get you gone!”
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

MUSIC: Polish carol; arr. by Edith M.G. Reed, 1926

Special Music (11) “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” — David Wesley

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (John)
PASTOR: Standing before the religious authorities in Jerusalem, Peter cried out, “the stone rejected by you, the builders, has become the cornerstone.” Like those who threw Peter and John in prison and placed law before love, we too confess that we have rejected the stone that is Christ Jesus and ask God’s forgiveness. Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: In our doubt, we have turned towards false securities, hopes, and promises. In our ignorance, we have invested in artificial love and cheap grace. So, we ask God’s forgiveness. Christ have mercy.
All: Christ have mercy.
Pastor: In our defiance, we have denied our beliefs and ignored your guidance. We, too, have rejected the stone in these ways and others. Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: People of God, be assured that even though the stone was rejected, it now sits as the cornerstone, ever-present, ever-forgiving, ever-lasting. You are forgiven, stand firm on this foundation, proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ now and forever. Amen.

Prayers of the People, Answered Prayers and Lord’s Prayer #895 (red) (John)
Pastor: Good Shepherd, there are many among us today and throughout the world who are walking through the deepest of valleys: For those who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally or relationally We pray for their wellbeing saying,
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
Pastor: Loving God, there are many who feel lonely and isolated, for those whose poor choices and behavior have limited their futures, and those who are victims of others’ poor choices and behaviors, for those entering into their final days . . . for all these and more, we pray to you,
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
Pastor: God of peace, there is so much unrest, violence and war within and around us. We pray that your peace which surpasses all understanding, may come upon your people. For this we say,
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
Pastor: For the leaders of the world, for our local leaders and for all bishops and pastors that as they lead God’s people they may be guided by His wisdom and compassion. We pray to the Lord,
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
Pastor: Lord, grant that your children may know they are cherished members of your flock. May they rest in green pastures and still waters. Receive offerings of comfort and protection, be welcomed at the table of plenty, and blessings overflow. We lift their needs to you, our protector and caregiver wrapped 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 #381 (red, vs. 1-2, 4)
“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”
Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast brought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

4. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Words: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836
Music: William B. Bradbury, 1859
God’s Word Proclaimed

John 10:11-18 (9:30 John, 11 Lector)

Good News for Kids (Joseph)

Sermon (Joseph)  “Are the Sheep Worth Dying for?”

1. Jesus called his followers sheep
   - What does being a sheep mean?
2. A. One of the titles of God/Jesus in the Bible is Shepherd
   - People of God are figuratively called sheep — Psalm 100:3
   - B. Leaders of Israel as Shepherd
3. Can you take personally that Jesus laid down his life for you?
   - Are the sheep worth dying for?
4. The role/duty of the Good Shepherd
   - Jesus asking Peter: “Do you love me?” and the responsibility given to Peter as a result (John 21:15ff)
5. Jesus’ intention to bring the other sheep in the fold

Prayer of Dedication (Joseph)

To the one who has commanded us to love one another, we give thanks for the love we have received. Hugs, prayers, gifts, words of encouragement, forgiveness, and grace. In recognition of all we are given, let us now commit to acting in love. Sharing, caring and sacrificing, being patient, generous, selfless, risking judgment, loss, disappointment. Let us offer all the love we have in all the ways we can until our doing becomes our being. Let us do love, let us be love, in the name of the one who is love. Amen.

Hymn #384 (red, vs. 1-2)  “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
   - fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
   - Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
   - visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
   - Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
   - Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
   - end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747
MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

Prayer for Coronavirus Victims and Those Attending Them (John)

Commissioning and Blessing (John)

PASTOR: You have heard it proclaimed how much our Good Shepherd loves us.
ALL: We thank our Good Shepherd for laying down his life for us and for being with us always.
PASTOR: Go from this place taking this love to share with family and friends, as well as stranger and foe, gift it to the hurt and sick, the lonely and troubled. Be bold, be humble, be love. “And may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in every good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom by the glory forever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21
ALL: Amen.

Readiness 360 (9:30)  D.S. Nancy Tomlinson

Postlude 9:30  “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” — arr. Carol Tornquist
11:00  “Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” — Wm. Bradbury
Announcements

Today, April 25, 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.
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=clRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHzKaTzvQzFMQT09
   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/kFkfw3laD
6:00 p.m. Blackwood Brothers Quartet — Piedmont Park Church, 4801 ‘A’ St.
A.R.M. Youth Group — Nielsen, 18900 Pioneers Blvd.

Monday
7:00 p.m. Worship Planning Team — zoom

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

Wednesday
5:00 p.m. Neighborhood Homeowner Meeting — Worship Center

Thursday
2:30 p.m. Connected & Caring Prayer Meeting — zoom
   Join Zoom Meeting
   https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81488353446?pwd=YVRqT1Z3NncvSWFmeNIT3dWZ fpdz09
   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

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

Saturday
9:00 a.m. Service Day — Camp Fontanelle
Next Sunday, May 2
7 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Marathon
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
1:00 p.m. Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall

Next Monday, May 3
1:30 p.m. U.M. Women Unit Meeting “Motherhood Sharing” — zoom

Tuesday, May 4
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Election Day — Fellowship Hall

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

Thursday, May 6
1:00 p.m. Prayer & Worship Service — Fireside Room, Legacy Estates

Sunday, May 9
Launch Readiness360 survey

Wednesday, May 12
6:00 p.m. Climate Care Discussion — 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

Sunday, June 6
9:30 a.m. Worship and Graduate Recognition — Worship Center and Online

Saturday, June 12
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Garden Tour — Aldersgate Gardens

Tuesday, June 15
7:00 p.m. Book Club Recipe for a Perfect Wife: A Novel by Karma Brown — zoom

Saturday, June 26 – Wednesday, June 30
Nebraska U.M. Bike Ride for Hunger — Elkhorn

Sunday, June 27
9:30 & 11 a.m. Celebration & Thanksgiving Worship
12 noon—4 p.m. Celebration — Aldersgate Gardens