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

May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Call to Worship (9:30 Joseph, 11 Lector)

PASTOR: Come, as you are people of God, enter the house of the Lord.

ALL: Rich and poor, low and high born, humble and haughty, come.
PASTOR: Come, people, ready yourselves to meditate in the wisdom of God.
ALL: Sophisticated and simple, bold and timid, curious and convinced.
PASTOR: Come, people, enjoy to overflowing the divine goodness and see with whom you can share.
ALL: Come, let us worship. Let us attend now and always to the things of God.

Opening Prayer (9:30 Joseph, 11 Lector)

PASTOR: Generous God, so often we come to you complaining that life is unfair. We did not get the things that we wanted; we were not treated the ways we thought we ought to be treated; we were not loved the way we desired to be loved.

ALL: Guide us this day, Lord, to give the way we want to be given to; to treat the way we want to be treated; to love as we want to be loved. Touch our lives this day. Help us to see the infinite love with which you love us. And, in seeing, help us hold this treasure more dear than all else and to share it with all your children. In the name of the risen Christ we ask. Amen.

Hymn #144 (red, vs. 1-2; 9:30)

“This Is My Father’s World”

This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears all nature sings,
and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father’s world, the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker’s praise.
This is my Father’s world: he shines in all that’s fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.

WORDS: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901
MUSIC: trad. English melody; adapt. by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

Special Music (11)

“Lord I’m Ready Now” — Plumb

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

PASTOR: Divine Creator, Jesus promised the disciples — and through them, us — that your Spirit of truth would be with us always. We come before you in prayer to lift up our concerns for all who need assurance of your presence in their lives.
We think of our world, too often a place of violence and war, of bloodshed and anger. We call upon your Spirit to bring peace into our world. God in your love,

ALL: hear our prayer.
PASTOR: Knowing there is so much injustice and inequality in our world, we pray that your Spirit of justice prevail and your children learn to share their means with the less fortunate. God in your love,

ALL: hear our prayer.
PASTOR: We pray for those whose lives are filled with the daily struggle to find enough food to eat, those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, and all those who face demons such as pain, addiction, loneliness. God in your love,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: We pray for those who are grieving, who are experiencing loss in all manners, and those whose lives are filled with anxiety. May your Spirit of comfort come upon them. God in your love,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: We pray for ourselves, and for all your people who hear the call to discipleship, but may be unsure of how to live that out, or too timid to step forward. May your Spirit encourage and reassure us that you are always with us. God in your love,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: For the growth of our church and for the growth of all God’s churches. God in your love,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: Generous God, we thank You for the timely reminders throughout your Word that we are to cast all our concerns on You and that all things are under your sovereign control. With all this in mind may our trust be strong in your providence. Hear and grant all our spoken and unspoken prayers for we wrap them 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 #2171 (black, vs. 1, 4) “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon,
Lord, and where there’s doubt, true faith in you.

4. Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

WORDS: Prayer of St. Francis; adapt. by Sebastian Temple
MUSIC: Sebastian Temple


Good News for Kids (Joseph)
Sermon (Joseph)  “Readiness 360”

1. Readiness is required in every area of life
2. R-360 asks us to evaluate our church’s life in four areas
   a. Spiritual intensity
   b. Missional alignment
   c. Dynamic relationships
   d. Cultural openness
3. Two questions that our Church Council put together as part of the evaluation process:
   a. What changes at Aldersgate would be necessary in order to have a positive impact on the lives of more people?
   b. With what at Aldersgate are you most concerned?
4. What impact was or was not the farmer in today’s reading willing to make?
5. What more can we DO in the four areas whether living an active or retired life?
6. Our membership pledge commitment:
   a. Talents
   b. Treasure
   c. Time
   d. Testimony

Sacrament of Holy Communion (John)

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

ALL:  And also with you.

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts.

ALL:  We lift them up to the Lord.

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL:  It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

PASTOR: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

In love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, your love remained steadfast. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Easter feast, that, renewed by your Word and Sacraments and fervent in prayer and works of justice and mercy, we may come to the fullness of grace that you have prepared for those who love you.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL:  Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
     Hosanna in the highest.  Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
     Hosanna in the highest.
Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to redeem the world. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do, this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

On the day you raised him from the dead, he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit. Your church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and grape juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (Joseph)

Pastor: I am rich in friends, family and people who love me
All: but sometimes I forget those who are lonely.
Pastor: I am rich in faith, hope and knowledge of God’s word
All: but I am not willing to share them. In fact, sometimes I neglect worshipping and studying God’s word, instead preferring to do other things.
Pastor: I am rich in freedom, justice and civil rights
All: but sometimes I don’t appreciate them and don’t care about those who are oppressed.
Pastor: I am rich in peace, unity, security, and opportunity
All: but I quarrel, worry, whine, and avoid responsibilities. I need to be generous in my attention toward God and in my care for others.
Pastor: May God who is rich in mercy, and has heard our confession, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in good works and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Dedication (Joseph) I give because I have been given.

Pastor: Lord our God, we thank you from the bottom of our heart for all that you have done and continue to do for us. We thank you most especially for the body and blood of your Son Jesus in which we partook.

All: Merciful God, from your infinite store of mercy, you call us from idleness to action, from grasping to graciousness. Today we offer ourselves to you. Make us good stewards of the talents, time, and treasure you have put in our care. Help us use your riches wisely, fairly and generously for the good of the world, and be a testimony of your love bringing glory to your name. Let us do love, let us be love, in the name of the one who is love. Amen.
Hymn #593 (red, vs. 1, 3)  “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.

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
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Prayer for Coronavirus Victims and Those Attending Them (John)

Commissioning and Blessing (John)

PASTOR: God has made us rich in so many ways.
Now let us go out to find new ways to be rich toward God.

ALL: We resolve to demonstrate our thanks for God’s generosity by word and deed.

PASTOR: May God bless your resolve and grant you strength to fulfill it for your good,
for the good of all and for the glory of God’s name. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

Postlude 9:30
“To God Be the Glory” — arr. Larry Shackley
11:00
‘Spring’ from “The Four Seasons” — A. Vivaldi
Announcements

Today, May 2, 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=clRSQUlOZjYrQjlyZHk0aTZvOzFMQT09
   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/kcFkw3laD
1:00 p.m. Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall

Monday
1:30 p.m. U.M. Women Unit Meeting “Mothers — One of God’s Greatest Gifts” — zoom
   Join the Aldersgate UMW Monthly Zoom Meeting:
   https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81745324893?pwd=dzd6QXNOS2FtWG9DL3UvdjJjR1I3Zz09
   Meeting ID: 817 4532 4893
   Passcode: 848320
   Dial by your location
      +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
   Meeting ID: 817 4532 4893
   Passcode: 848320
   Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kb7WVv1yOP

Tuesday
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Election Day — Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Learning Key Result Team — zoom
   Join Zoom Meeting
   https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85691770247?pwd=TjYraEJxWdpZlpuckdpT1d3N3lRdz09
   Meeting ID: 856 9177 0247
   Passcode: 552690
   One tap mobile
      +13462487799,,85691770247#,,,,*552690# US (Houston)
   Dial by your location
      +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
   Meeting ID: 856 9177 0247
   Passcode: 552690
   Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kw98Kgcj8
Wednesday
1:30 p.m. Book Club *Lions of Fifth Avenue: A Novel* by Fiona Davis — zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84680892716?pwd=VEZRtSEY3U1pXZi9na2hXbm5KV0dWZz09
Meeting ID: 846 8089 2716
Passcode: 190627
One tap mobile
+1669906833,,84680892716#,,,,0#,,190627# US (San Jose)
Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 846 8089 2716
Passcode: 190627
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdKqVtOgh

Thursday
1:00 p.m. Prayer & Worship Service — Fireside Room, Legacy Estates
2:30 p.m. Connected & Caring Prayer Meeting — zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81488353446pwd=YVRqT1Z3NnevSWFmckNIT3dWZEpiz09
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 9
9:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and Online
9:30 a.m. Readiness 360 Survey Launch
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

Next Monday, May 10
7:00 p.m. Trustees — zoom

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

Wednesday, May 19
7:00 p.m. Ride of Silence — Jane Snyder Trails Center, 21st & Q

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