

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

March 17, 2024
St. Patrick's Day

8:30 a.m.

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Song Leaders: Dan & Kara Steward
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Greeter/Usher: Nelda Boswell

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Dan Smith
Lector: Alane Wahlstrom

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

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.

John 12:24, NRSV

**Aldersgate
United Methodist Church**
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Lincoln, NE 68506-6540
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Joseph Rafique, Pastor
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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.*



March 17, 2024

Greeting and Announcements (8:30 *John, 11 Alane*)

Music for Centering Prayer (8:30)
(11)

“Lord, Be Glorified” — arr. Mark Hayes

“Be Thou My Vision” — duet by Mary K. Burns and Jan Malone,
Irish melody arr. L. Larson

Call to Worship (8:30 *John, 11 Alane*)

LEADER: Whenever in life we turn toward God, we find God already turned toward us.

ALL: **God is present, gracious and good.**

LEADER: In times of sorrow and weeping, as in gladness and rejoicing,

ALL: **God is present, gracious and good.**

LEADER: In times of illness and pain, fear and loss,

ALL: **God is present, gracious and good.**

LEADER: Let us worship God with thanksgiving.

ALL: **God is present, gracious and good. Praise be to God!**

Opening Prayer (8:30 *John, 11 Alane*)

LEADER: 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.**

LEADER: 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 #256 (red, vs. 3-5)

“We Would See Jesus”

Prayer of Confession (*Harry*)

Psalm 51 Revisited © Dave Hopwood/engageworship.org

Dear Lord, life ambushes us, it's the nature of things.

This broken world side-tracks and distracts us, it is full of traps, temptations and terrors, and we fall at times, frequently, daily, sometimes hour by hour. It's the nature of us.

We are flawed, fragile, frantic beings, hungry for satisfaction, for a quick fix, for an escape.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your extraordinary love; according to your kindness, compassion and crucified grace. Please deal with our wrongdoing, remove the stains, heal the past, and lift the guilt.

We offer you all that we are — our mistakes, our falling short, our regrets, our strengths and weaknesses, disasters and triumphs. Our moments of following you, and our moments of meandering. We are wayward people, but because of you, we are not lost,

Forgiveness is possible, hope is on the agenda, and a fresh start is offered to us, each minute, each hour, each day. Because of you, because of your love, and because of all you have done.

We thank you, in the name of your compassionate, courageous son. Amen.

“Change My Heart, O God”

Words of Assurance (*Harry*)

PASTOR: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

ALL: **Amen. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.**

PASTOR: Amen.

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

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: We pray for this community 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: God of all, we pray for your faithful followers everywhere, 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: 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 this week. God in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: What would you like to lift up in prayer? (pause) 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 #398 (red, 8:30)

"Jesus Calls Us"

Special Music (11)

"We Will Glorify" — *Aldersgate Choir*

Word of God Proclaimed (8:30 *John*, 11 *Alane*)

John 12:20-33

Sermon (*Harry*)

"Seeds of Sacrifice"

Offertory Invitation (*Harry*)

Like a seed sprouting, bringing new life, we are to bring life to others through our gifts, our service and our prayers.

(8:30)

"Jesus Paid It All" — arr. Mark Hayes

(11)

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" — Irish folk tune arr. D. Wood

Doxology (to the tune of #95)

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

MUSIC: attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

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

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 #2129 (black)

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Commissioning (*John*)

PASTOR: Please be seated. 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.**

Blessing (*John*)

As it is St. Patrick's Day we will leave you with an Irish Blessing.

May God give you:

for every storm, a rainbow

for every tear, a smile

for every care, a promise

a blessing in each trial

for every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share

for every sigh, a sweet song

and an answer for each prayer.

(Thank you to those who have participated in today's worship. You are invited to stay and listen or leave as you wish.)

Postlude (8:30)

(11)

"Change My Heart, O God" — arr. Mark Hayes

"Morning Has Broken" — Gaelic melody arr. D. Bish

Prayer List



Birthdays This Week

17 Pat Ruth
18 Ginger Lanum (45)
20 Katrena Anton
21 Juli Emry
23 Keith Johnson

David Huston

Nadyne Bauer has had cataract surgery

Dick Easley	Judy Faubel	Dennis Frederick
Shirley Hanley	Keller Hustad	Dallas Huston
Laura Marshall	Lynda Nordyke	Larry, Sandy Gores' dad
Zach Steward	Roxanne & Richard Swyers	Jacob

John
Kevin Johnson, Keith's brother, from San Angelo, TX has bone cancer and is undergoing radiation.

Iva Maxey, Reba Wysocki's sister, who is undergoing dialysis treatments

Jennifer Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece

Isaiah Pierce, Karen Pierce's grandson who was born 12/13/22 with heart issues has finally come home from the hospital

Alex Ronne, Pat Ruth's cousin, a 5-year-old girl living in Colorado diagnosed with MLD, a rare, incurable, genetic disease.

Thanks for your prayers! Freeman Sandquist is home from his deployment.

Corrie Stohlman who's chemo for Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma is no longer helping as much so they are increasing treatments

"May the Lord go before Ross Teske and prepare the way for his missionary work in Talavera de la Reina, Spain."

Announcements

Today, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
<https://www.youtube.com@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463> or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org. You may also search YouTube for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Room 4

9:45 a.m. A.K.T.S. (Aldersgate Kids Take on Service) Easter food with Julie Huston — Room 2

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

<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>

2-5 p.m. Celebrate Easter 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock. In the barn: play with baby animals, see a real crown of thorns, pound nails into a cross. Outside: travel through the Homestead to see lots of stable animals, view a field of crosses.



Monday, March 18

7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

Tuesday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Artisans

6:00 p.m. Dance Class — Sunshine Room #7c

7:00 p.m. Book Club *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb

Wednesday, March 20 Spring Begins

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4
- 3:00 p.m. Dementia Support Group — Stauffer's Café, 5600 s. 48th St.
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, March 21

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom. Share prayer concerns.
- 7:00 p.m. Lasting Legacy Team — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Learning Key Result Team — Room 4

Friday, March 22

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 1:30 p.m. Honey Do Extension Club — Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 23 United Women in Faith Legacy Giving Day

- 10:00 a.m. Nebraska Herbal Society — Fellowship Hall
- 2-5 p.m. Celebrate Easter 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock. In the barn: play with baby animals, see a real crown of thorns, pound nails into a cross. Outside: travel through the Homestead to see lots of stable animals, view a field of crosses.

Next Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Room 4
- 9:45 a.m. A.K.T.S. (Aldersgate Kids Take on Service) Service Sunday for Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach — Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 12:15 p.m. Family Ministry Kick-off — Sunshine Room. Preschool kids through high school with their parents/grandparents invited for pizza, cookie decorating and games.
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support Group — Sheridan Lutheran Church

Next Monday, March 25 Holy Week

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

Tuesday, March 26

- 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiving Education Group — Fellowship Hall. "Aging in Place" by AARP
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class — South Gate, U.M. Church
- 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry "Water in Nebraska" with Ann Briggs, Nebraska Water Center, UNL

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service — Worship Center and online

Sunday, March 31 Easter

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:30 a.m. Continental Brunch — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt — Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

Tuesday, April 2

- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th St. Seniors fellowship over lunch ordered off the menu.

Wednesday, April 3

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom — Room 4