

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m.

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

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Connie Kier
Lector: Stacey Lienemann
Flautist: Dianne Freyendall-Smith

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



**Aldersgate
United Methodist Church**
8320 South Street
Lincoln, NE 68506-6540
www.aldersgatelinc.org
402-489-1510 (church office)
aldersgatelinc@gmail.com

Joseph Rafique, Pastor
402-499-7101 (cell)
402-483-7250 (home)
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.*



December 10, 2023

Greeting and Announcements (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Stacey*)

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

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” — arr. Mark Hayes
“Still, Still, Still” — arr. C. Davis

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Hymn #2090 (black, vs. 2)

“Light the Advent Candle”

Light the Advent candle, two: Think of humble shepherds, who
filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

WORDS and MUSIC: © 1975 Mary Lu Walker

Call to Worship (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Stacey*) (based on Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:2-3)

LEADER: Receive God’s comfort, people of God! Speak tenderly to each other — remember, it is time for the good news of Jesus Christ to be made real in our lives.

ALL: **Let us prepare a way for God through the wilderness of clutter, distractions, demands and obligations, a straight way through the desert of buying and selling and guessing what will be good enough.**

LEADER: Let us prepare a heavenly highway for our God and for God’s people!

ALL: **One is coming who is wonderful and powerful and present and peaceful! Emmanuel, Jesus, Savior, Infant!**

Opening Prayer (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Stacey*)

LEADER: All praise, glory and honor is yours, God of this season, God of all seasons, Emmanuel, God with us. God, your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted up and mountainous problems are leveled. In your presence, we see more than our immediate situation.

ALL: **We catch a glimpse of your eternal purposes. So, come among us now and speak your word of peace and comfort. Feed us with your truth and equip us to welcome Christ’s coming in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #108 (red)

“God Hath Spoken by the Prophet”

1. God hath spoken by the prophets, spoken the unchanging Word,
each from age to age proclaiming, God the One, the righteous Lord!
'Mid the world’s despair and turmoil, one firm anchor holdeth fast:
God eternal reigns forever, God the first, and God the last.

2. God hath spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son;
brightness of the Father’s glory, with the Father ever one;
spoken by the Word incarnate, God of God, ere time was born;
Light of Light, to earth descending, Christ, as God in human form.

3. God yet speaketh by the Spirit, speaketh to our hearts again;
in the age-long Word expounding God's own message, now as then.
Thru the rise and fall of nations, one sure faith yet standing fast,
God abides, the Word unchanging, God the first, and God the last.

WORDS: George W. Briggs, 1952, alt. © 1953, renewed 1981 The Hymn Society of America

MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams, 1890

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (8:30 John, Tom H.; 11 Stacey,)

JOSEPH: God is patient with us, not wanting any to perish. Yet we have turned away from holiness and godliness. We have chosen to fit into society rather than give leadership for a new day. Let the church confess its failure.

LEADER: *God of Advent, as we await your coming, we confess the rough places of our own hearts.*

VOICE 1: We confess the angers that become stony roadblocks to your peace.

VOICE 2: *We confess the mountains of hurt feelings we leave behind us through thoughtlessness.*

LEADER: *We confess the crookedness of our motives.*

VOICE 1: We confess the pits of despair into which we cast our brothers and sisters by our greed and injustice.

VOICE 2: *We confess we are focused more on our own survival than on the mission of our church in the world.*

ALL: **God, we have failed to prepare the way for Christ's entry into our everyday environment. Pardon and change us, we pray. Amen.**

JOSEPH: God speaks tenderly to us and assures us that our debt has been paid, our sins forgiven, our paths made straight because it is not God's will that any should perish. Now as people transformed, live lives of holiness and godliness. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: God, we come before you in a spirit of prayer, knowing that our world is hurting. We know you have great compassion for all your people, and that we are dear to you. We know you have created a place of comfort, a refuge, for those who need it. Guide them to it, we pray.

There is a place for those who mourn and for those who hurt, a place of comfort and a place of healing: for those we have lost to illness, and those we have never known.

For them we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: There is a place for those who hunger and thirst, a place of banquets and grace: for farmers trapped in unfair trade, families dispossessed. For them we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: There is a place for those imprisoned for belief and justice, a place of freedom and full lives: for mothers of the disappeared, fathers exiled. For them we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: There is a place for those oppressed and downtrodden, a place of liberation and justice for children of sectarianism, families divided. For them we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)

For these and all our needs hidden in our hearts, we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: Hear all our prayers, loving God, and answer according to your will and purpose. We pray in Christ's name who taught his disciples to pray, saying:

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 #210 (8:30, red)

“All Earth Is Waiting”

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,”
for his name is “God with us,” our brother shall be,
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
He is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

4. In lowly stable the Promised One appeared,
yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today,
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

WORDS: Catalanian text © 1972 Alberto Taulè, 1972; English trans. by Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987
trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House;

MUSIC: Alberto Taulè, 1972; harm.© 1988 by Skinner Chávez-Melo,

Special Music (11)

“Ding Dong Merrily! He Is Born!” — arr. A.L. Page

God’s Word Proclaimed (8:30 *John, 11 Stacey*)

Isaiah 40:1-11
Mark 1:1-8

The Waiting Room (*Joseph*)

by Dave Hopwood, Andy Stinson and Sam Hargreaves

We are going to see a video called “The Waiting Room.” It revolves around the Advent themes of waiting and patience, things to which we can all relate. It begins with a light-hearted audio section, then moves into images, Bible quotes and reflective images.

Advent Creed (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: The Advent Creed we are using today is a trinitarian creed like the Apostle’s Creed, but it draws on themes of waiting, quiet and silence. We will read it responsively.
We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.

WOMEN: **The one who is full of patience,**

MEN: **who is not afraid of silence,**

WOMEN: **who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.**

MEN: **The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,**

WOMEN: **and who does not jostle for attention.**

PASTOR: We believe in God the Son, Savior of creation,

MEN: **who slipped into Bethlehem on night, mostly unnoticed,**

WOMEN: **who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,**

MEN: **who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,**

WOMEN: **who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,**

MEN: **who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,**

WOMEN: **whose silence overpowered their words,**

MEN: **who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.**

PASTOR: We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
WOMEN: **who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,**
MEN: **sometimes arriving with obvious power,**
WOMEN: **sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.**
PASTOR: We believe in one God
WOMEN: **who patiently waits for us,**
MEN: **and who longs for us to do the same.**

© Dave Hopwood/engageworship.org

Sermon (*Joseph*)

“John the Baptist and Mrs. Nolan”

Offertory (*Joseph*)

One way to prepare for Christ’s appearance is to support the church’s mission in our community and beyond. Our church’s programs share good news, our outreach provides comfort and practical help, and our goals are nothing less than newness of life for all God’s children. May our gifts reflect God’s generosity.

(8:30)

“I Wonder as I Wander” — arr. Mark Hayes

(11)

“Ave Maria” — Bach/Gounod

Doxology to the tune of #95 (red)

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 Thanksgiving and Dedication of Gifts and Self (*John*)

PASTOR: Giver of all good things, source of all that is seen and unseen, everlasting God, receive our earnest gifts, given in love, as tokens of our desire to become your emissaries of peace and wholeness in this troubled world.

ALL: **May these gifts, magnified beyond their material measure, witness to your perfect will that all people and all creation be reconciled, so that truly your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. As we have received, so we give. In Jesus’ name whose coming we eagerly await. Amen.**

Hymns #203 (red)

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

2. He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth..
Before him on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1821

MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt; adapt. and harm. by W.H. Monk, 1868

Commissioning and Blessing (*John*)

PASTOR: Announce the good news of Jesus Christ; prepare the way for Christ's witness to be heard.

ALL: **Christ brings hope for true peace to all people. He patiently awaits for us to claim this gift.**

PASTOR: Lead lives of holiness and godliness; enjoy treasures of heaven and earth that God offers.

ALL: **God's Word brings us both comfort and challenge. We are accepted by God and commissioned for duty.**

PASTOR: You will be blessed with pure hearts. The baptism of the Holy Spirit will empower you.

ALL: **We turn our hearts and minds toward God. We rejoice that we can be servants in Christ's name.**

PASTOR: Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Postlude (8:30)

(11)

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" — arr. Mark Hayes

"Two French Carols" — arr. B. Adams

(Parts of this liturgy have been taken from *Taught by Love* by Lavon Bayler and The Minister's Annual Manual of Logos Production Inc.)

Spirit of Giving

If you wish to make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one for poinsettias, please return this form in the offering plate or to the Church Office by Thursday, December 21. The remainder of the money collected will go to Mosaic in Axtell at Bethphage Village (Zach Steward's home.)

Your name _____

Name(s) you wish to honor _____

Name(s) you wish to remember _____

Gifts for the Staff

At this time of year, we often express our appreciation through gifts. If you would like to participate in a monetary Christmas gift for our staff, you may give your contribution to Carol Clymer, Kathy Dombrowski or Harry Kellenbarger by Wednesday, December 22.

Announcements

Today, December 10 **Human Rights 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. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service (A.K.T.S.) -- Room 2. For grades pre-K-12. Music Sunday

9:45 a.m. Psalm Study — Worship Center.

10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up -- Choir Room

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUlOZjYrQjlyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>

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=clRSQUlOZjYrQjlyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>

2-5 p.m. Living Nativity — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock. Plan for 1.5 hours to interact with the animals in the barn and enjoy cocoa and the gift shop.

4 or 6 p.m. Abendmusik "Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room" — First Plymouth or Abendmusik.org/livestream. Experience the Christmas story in heavenly carols. Let Abendmusik prepare your heart to receive the hope of the season. Freewill offering benefits ECHO Collective refugee support.



Monday, December 11 **International Mountain Day**

1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith Christmas Social — Room 4

6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma (Zeta chapter) — Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Trustees — Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVdKzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=87817460288)

[pwd=bE91cFhndExNVdKzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=87817460288](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVdKzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=87817460288)



Tuesday, December 12 **Gingerbread House Day**

9:00 a.m. Artisans

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiving Education Group — Worship Center

6:00 p.m. Dance Class Christmas Party — Sunshine Room

7:00 p.m. Finance — Room 4

Wednesday, December 13 **National Violin Day**

10:00 a.m. A.R.M.S. (Retired Ministers and Spouses) — Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Lincoln Women's Connection — Sunshine Room

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, December 14 **Monkey Day**
12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn

Friday, December 15 **National Wear Your Pearls Day**
8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4

Saturday, December 16 **National Chocolate Covered Anything Day**
8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast "Toys" with Harry Kellenbarger — Room 4

Saturday & Sunday, December 16, 17
2-5 p.m. Living Nativity — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock. Plan for 1.5 hours to interact with the animals in the barn and enjoy cocoa and the gift shop.

Next Sunday, December 17 **National Maple Syrup Day**
8:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols — Worship Center and online
9:45 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service (A.K.T.S.) — Room 2. Birthday Party
11:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols with the Aldersgate Choir — Worship Center
12:15 p.m. Potluck — Sunshine Room
1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Next Monday, December 18 **Charles Wesley's Birthday**
7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

Tuesday, December 19 **Holly Day**
7:00 p.m. Book Club Christmas Party — Room 4

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

10 Cherie Frederick (80)

12 Dexter Jambor (10)

15 Ethan Huston

Jonna Pester (50)

Lillie Schrock

Nadyne Bauer has scheduled cataract surgery

Dick Easley

Shirley Hanley

Laura Marshall

Keller Hustad

Dallas Huston

Jacob

Zach Steward

Roxanne & Richard Swyers

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

Allen Ostlund, Frankey & Gordon's son who has metastatic prostate cancer

AJ & Chandra Pfenning, Pat Marshall's granddaughter

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

Sandy Quathammer who is in the memory unit of Pemberly Place

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

Freeman Sandquist and his family as he is deployed in Somalia.

Andrew Smith has finished 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."

People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine

