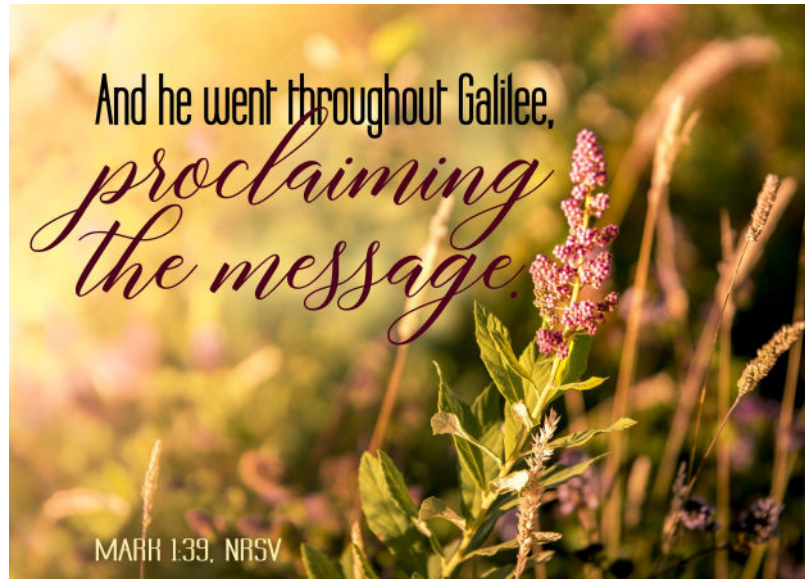


Aldersgate

United Methodist Church



8:30 a.m.

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

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Harry Kellenbarger
Lector: Rod Moore

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

February 4, 2024
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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.*



February 4, 2024

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

Music for Centering Prayer (8:30) “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” — arr. Marianne Kim
(11) “Healer of Our Every Ill, Light of Each Tomorrow” — M. Haugen

Call to Worship (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Rod*) based on Isaiah 40:21-31

LEADER: Worship God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. The God of creation does not faint or grow weary.

ALL: **How good it is to sing praises to God! How expansive is God’s understanding of us.**

LEADER: The whole universe is subject to God’s power. Creation continues as the universe expands.

ALL: **God rules all time and space, yet cares about us. God renews our strength like eagles.**

LEADER: Sing to God with great thanksgiving. Praise God with the best you have to offer.

ALL: **We lift up our eyes to see God’s wonders. We open our ears to receive God’s message.**

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

LEADER: Compassionate Savior, at whose touch people are healed and by whose word lives are transformed, show yourself to us now, touch our lives, speak to us. We do not seek these gifts for ourselves alone, but for the sake of the gospel.

ALL: **May your message be proclaimed among all people, drawing us all into the community you intend, where God reigns and love prevails. Amen.**

Hymn #103 (red)

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

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

PASTOR: Let us bring the needs of the church, the world, and all in need, to God’s loving care. God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to You in His name. Confident in your love and mercy we offer our prayers. Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness. Break down the barriers that divide, that, united in your truth and love, the church may confess your name, share one baptism, sit together at one table, and serve you in one common ministry. God of mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Guide the rulers of the nations. Move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambition, and bow to your sovereign rule. Inspire them to strive for peace and justice, that all your children may dwell secure, free of war and injustice. God of mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Renew our nation in the ways of justice and peace. Guide those who make and administer our laws to build a society based on trust and respect. Erase prejudices that oppress; free us from crime and violence; guard our youth from the perils of drugs and materialism. Give all citizens a new vision of a life of harmony. God of mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Hear the cries of the world’s hungry and suffering. Give us, who consume most of the earth’s resources, the will to reorder our lives, that all may have their rightful share of the food, medical care, and shelter, and so have the necessities of a life of dignity. God of mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Restore among us a love of the earth you created for our home. Help us put an end to ravishing its land, air, and waters, and give us respect for all your creatures, that, living in harmony with everything you have made, your whole creation may resound in an anthem of praise to your glorious name. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Strengthen this congregation in its ministry and worship. Fill our hearts with your self-giving love, that our voices may speak your praise, and our lives may conform to the image of your Son. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments that we may faithfully minister in your name, and witness to your love and grace for all the world. God of mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Look with compassion on all who suffer. Support with your love those with incurable and stigmatized diseases, those unjustly imprisoned, those denied dignity, those who live without hope, those who are homeless or abandoned. As you have moved toward us in love, so lead us to be present with them in their suffering in the name of Jesus Christ. God of mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Sustain those among us who need your healing touch. Make the sick whole (especially. . .) Give hope to the dying (especially. . .) Comfort those who mourn (especially. . .) Uphold all who suffer in body or mind, not only those we know and love but also those known only to you, that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care. God of mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: O God, in your loving purpose answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes. In all things for which we pray, give us the will to seek to bring them about, for the sake of Jesus Christ, 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 #405 (red, 8:30)

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

Special Music (11)

“God Our Creator, Source and Sustainer” — *Aldersgate Choir*,

Word of God Proclaimed

Isaiah 40:21-31

arr. by Sunil Chandy

VOICE 1: Have you not known?

VOICE 2: *Have you not heard?*

VOICE 1: Has it not been told you from the beginning?

VOICE 2: *Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?*

ALL: **It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,**

VOICE 3: and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

ALL: **who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,**

VOICE 3: and spreads them like a tent to live in;

ALL: **who brings princes to naught,**

VOICE 3: and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

VOICE 1: Scarcely are they planted,

VOICE 2: *scarcely sown,*

VOICE 1: scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

ALL: **when he blows upon them and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.**

VOICE 2: *To whom then will you compare me,*

VOICE 3: or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

VOICE 1: Lift up your eyes on high and see:

VOICE 3: Who created these?

ALL: **He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.**

VOICE 3: Why do you say, O Jacob,

ALL: **and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”?**

VOICE 1: Have you not known?

VOICE 2: *Have you not heard?*

ALL: **The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

VOICE 3: He does not faint or grow weary;

ALL: **his understanding is unsearchable.**

VOICE 1: He gives power to the faint,

ALL: **and strengthens the powerless.**

VOICE 1: Even youths will faint and be weary,

VOICE 2: *and the young will fall exhausted;*

ALL: **but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.**

Gospel Lesson (8:30 *John*, 11 *Rod*)

Mark 1:29-39

Sermon (8:30 *John*)
(11 *Joseph*)

“That Is What I Came to Do”

“A Whole City at the Door”

The Holy Sacrament of Communion (*Joseph*)

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. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

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, God, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. 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.

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.”

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 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. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: The bread of heaven transforms a sinner into a saint. Receive the bread, eat and be transformed.

ALL: **We receive this gift knowing that we are only sanctified by God's grace.**

PASTOR: The bread of heaven changes our church community. Share the bread; share the cup.

ALL: **We gather as a family of faith. We share our lives with each other.**

PASTOR: The bread of heaven strengthens us before sending us into the world. Pass on the gift with joy to all near and far.

ALL: **We are thankful to God for the privilege of being chosen and sent. With gratefulness we will serve and witness.**

PASTOR: The bread of heaven is holy and pure. Our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Let us draw near with faith, make our humble confession and prepare to receive this Holy Sacrament.

ALL: **I do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own goodness, but in your unfailing mercies. I am not worthy that you should receive me, but give your word and I shall be healed, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.**

PASTOR: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that is proof of God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

PASTOR: Amen.

Sharing the Body and Blood of Jesus

(The offering plates are up front if you want to make an offering as you come forward to receive the body and blood of Christ.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*John*)

PASTOR: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another.

ALL: **Thank you for showing us a better way to live than we are able to devise for ourselves. Thank you for reaching out to win our hearts. Thank you for Jesus Christ and his ministry of proclaiming your love for the least and the lost, for the powerful presence that offered wholeness to those who were sick or brokenhearted, for the prayers that demonstrate how we, too, can be in communion with you. In gratitude, we dedicate ourselves and our gifts and talents to your service. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymn #102 (red)

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Commissioning and Blessing (*John*)

PASTOR: Go, my brothers and sisters, someone needs you today. Preach God's word, if necessary use words.

ALL: **We pray God will give Jesus-like courage to us. We will look for ways to be helpful.**

PASTOR: Go in the name of Jesus Christ, who sends you as his apostles.

ALL: **God will empower our ministry. We will tell others: "Seek first his kingdom and righteousness and all things you need will be given to you."**

PASTOR: God strengthens the powerless and helps the weak. God's power will be in you wherever you go.

ALL: **We shall run and not be weary. We will serve in the strength God supplies.**

PASTOR: Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

(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)

“On Eagle’s Wings” — arr. Douglas E. Wagner

“The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation” — F. Allitsen

(Today's liturgy has been taken and adapted from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler.)

Announcements

Today, February 4

- 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 “Good Samaritan” Story Sunday — Room 2
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* “Shabbat” — Worship Center
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Sunshine Room
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
<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)
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=c1RSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>
- 4:00 p.m. Tackling Climate Change in Lincoln with Kim Morrow (Public Feedback) — Worship Center

Tuesday, February 6

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th. Fellowship with Seniors.
- 6:00 p.m. Dance Class — Sunshine Room 7b

Wednesday, February 7

- 12:00 p.m. Nebraska Caregiver Coalition “Grief and the Ripple Effect” — webinar
- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *The Seed Keeper: A Novel* by Diane Wilson — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, February 8

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn

Friday, February 9

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Abendmusik “Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble” — First Plymouth Church or Abendmusik.org/ livestream. The Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble shines light on the intersection of music and social justice, offering performances of artistic excellence that celebrate racial, ethnic and gender diversity. Led by Arianne Abela, nine professional singers will bring their uniquely kaleidoscopic vocal chamber music to the Midwest for the first time. Freewill offering benefits the Asian Community and Cultural center.

Saturday, February 10

- 8:00 a.m. Nebraska Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day — Christ U.M. Church, 4530 A St. Choose 2 topics: Economics of Exclusion, Mental Health, Education, Environment, School Safety, Housing. Cost: \$25. Please register at www.nelegisbrief.org
- 11:00 a.m. Citizen’s Climate Lobby — Sunshine Room

Next Sunday, February 11 Transfiguration Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Worship Center and online
- 9:45 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service Food Pantry Service Sunday — Room 2
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Worship Center
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Next Monday, February 12

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith “Installation of Officers, Pledge Service” — Room 4
- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma (Zeta Chapter) — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — Room 4

Tuesday, February 13

- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation — Church Office

Wednesday, February 14 Valentine’s Day

- 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service — Worship Center

Thursday, February 15

- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Saturday, February 17

- 8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast — Room 4

Tuesday, February 20

- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *The Seed Keeper: A Novel* by Diane Wilson — Room 4

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

- 6** Jeanette Fagerberg
- 7** Aleta Stone (65)
- 9** Scott Hoyt Roger Witt
- 10** Mandy Kellenbarger



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Nadyne Bauer has had cataract surgery | Jeff Buethe |
| Dick Easley | Dennis Frederick |
| Shirley Hanley | Dallas Huston |
| Laura Marshall | 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

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.

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

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