

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday



8:30 a.m.

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward
Greeter/Usher: Bill & Phyllis Nelson

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Colleen & Dave Nielsen
Lector: Rod Moore

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

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United Methodist Church**
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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 31, 2024

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

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

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” — arr. R. Kevin Boesiger
“Christ Arose!” — R. Lowry

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

LEADER: *Christ is risen!*

ALL: **He is risen indeed!**

LEADER: *Christ is risen!*

ALL: **He is risen indeed!**

LEADER: *Christ is risen!*

ALL: **He is risen indeed!**

LEADER: *Hallelujah!*

Lighting the Christ Candle (8:30 *John, 11 Rod*)

LEADER: *The risen Christ lives today!*

ALL: **We are witnesses to these things.**

LEADER: *We sing praise to God incarnate.*

ALL: **May Christ’s love burn within us!**

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

LEADER: *God of grace and power, we have longed and prepared for this joyous day: on Ash Wednesday we humbled ourselves before you, on Maundy Thursday we learned a new commandment, on Good Friday we cried at the foot of the cross, on Holy Saturday we kept vigil, and on this Blessed Sunday we rejoice as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and in the risen power of love, hope and new life.*

ALL: **Make this rising real in our own lives. Let us be people of love, hope and new life. Let us be people of joy. In the name of the risen Christ, we ask. Amen.**

Hymns #304 (red)

“Easter People, Raise Your Voices”

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

PASTOR: The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: “I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins. . . .” In this mystery of that atoning sacrifice, we come to this time of prayer, bringing our sins to the doors of the empty tomb.

ALL: **We cannot truly worship you, loving God, until we recognize how unloving we have been. We cannot truly live until we admit the many ways we have been dwelling in death. We cannot know forgiveness until we honestly face the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected. We admit before you now the anger and malice we have carried in our hearts, the doubts and fears we have allowed to paralyze us, the misplaced priorities that have led us away from your will and way. Help us break down the barriers we have erected so we can experience new life today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

PASTOR: God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right finds forgiveness and acceptance. The One who came to embody love among people is ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. In Jesus’ name, our sins are forgiven, and we are being saved. The grace of God is extended to each of us on this day of resurrection. Praise God! Alleluia! Amen

ALL: **Amen. Alleluia, Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer #895 (red, Tealights lit after each petition.)

LEADER: *The world is different now for, in Christ, we know that your love cannot be contained — not by death's grave, not by human walls that divide and separate, not by barriers of hopelessness and despair. For all who suffer, are ill or are in grief, we pray. For all who wait to be fully included, we pray. For the places of hopelessness within and around us, we pray. (pause)*

PASTOR: The world is different now for, in Christ, your Spirit has pushed its way through and befriends the earth once again. For the seasons of creation and the earth's pattern of death and renewal, we pray. For all the ways your presence is revealed to us through creation, we pray. For the delights and joy of life, we pray. (pause)

LEADER: *The world is different now for, in Christ, hands that held a whip and a hammer have seen the futile victory won with violence. And hands once held in death's grip by nails, now offer peace to all the earth. For forgiveness offered and received, we pray. For tables of diplomacy and cooperation between nations, we pray. For peace that transcends differences, we pray. (pause) For what else shall we pray? (pause)*

PASTOR: O God, in Your loving purpose answer our prayers and fulfill 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, the risen One 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 #302 (8:30 red, vs. 1 & 5)

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Special Music (11)

"An Easter Celebration" — *Aldersgate Choir*

God's Word Proclaimed (8:30 *John, 11 Rod*)

I Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18

8:30 readers: *Katrena Anton, Kari Beckenhauer, Carol Clymer, Nelda Boswell, Gaylene Nutzman, Bill Nelson, Tom Beckenhauer, Dave Baisinger*

11:00 readers: *Hayley Jambor, Jeanette Fagerberg, Alane Wahlstrom, Karen Pierce, Sheila Kellenbarger, Larry Ruth, Karl Schwabauer, Keith Johnson*

NARRATOR: While it was still dark on Sunday morning a group of women, friends of Jesus, walked slowly towards the tomb. They brought spices to put on his body, and talked as they travelled.

SALOME: How will we ever do it?

MARY: Do what?

SALOME: Move that stone to embalm the body?

MARY: Oh, we'll find a way, there has to be a way. Joanna, do you have the spices safe there? Don't drop them.

JOANNA: They're fine, don't fuss. I wrapped them in some cloth, but Mary, you said you saw them do it.

MARY: Do what?

JOANNA: Seal the tomb! With that huge rock. We'll never move it. We should have brought James and Peter.

MARY: No. Too dangerous for them at the moment. It's easier for us to do this, we're no threat.

SALOME: You say that, but what if they've posted soldiers at the tomb? Goodness knows what they might do if they find us trying to pen it up.

MARY: Salome, stop worrying! You've got those oils?

SALOME: Yes.

MARY: Joanna, you've got the spices?

JOANNA: I've told you once. Yes!

MARY: Good, then let's go quietly now, we're making enough noise to wake the . . . well . . . You know what I mean.

NARRATOR: The women approached the tomb, heads bowed and spices clutched close to their bodies. Mary

was the first to look up and see the damage.

MARY: The stone!

JOANNA: I told you it would be a problem. . . .

MARY: No! Look! It's moved, the tomb's open!

NARRATOR: There was a crash as Salome's jar of oil tumbled from beneath her cloak to the hard ground. Joanna kicked the shattered fragments aside as she pushed her way past.

SALOME: Joanna! Be careful, you don't know what's happened here. . . .

JOANNA: I've got a good idea, I bet those Romans have taken him away.

MARY: I think . . . It's empty! The body's gone. Have a look! I'm serious. I'm going to get the others. You two stay here. I'll get the others, be careful.

SALOME: Mary! Come back!

NARRATOR: And so Mary hurried away in search of the other disciples.

JOANNA: Let's have a look inside the tomb. I want to get to the bottom of this, see what's happened here.

SALOME: Let's just go home, Joanna, something's not right, don't go in, come back. . . .

ANGEL: Don't be afraid.

NARRATOR: A stranger, dressed in white, was sitting inside the tomb.

JOANNA: Who . . . who are you?

ANGEL: A messenger.

SALOME: Joanna, don't get close, come away. . . .

ANGEL: Don't be afraid, no one's going to hurt you.

JOANNA: What are you doing here? Where's Jesus?

ANGEL: He is not here. Why are you looking amongst the dead for someone who is alive?

JOANNA: Alive?

ANGEL: Yes! He's risen. He's not here. Come closer, that's right, you don't need to be nervous. Look! You see where they laid his body? Just there? See the empty grave clothes? He's gone!

SALOME: But why? Who's taken him?

ANGEL: Don't you remember? He told you this would happen. Time and again he said, "The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful men, be crucified and on the third day rise again." Remember? Now quick! Go and tell the others, John and Peter and all the rest. Tell them he's going to Galilee ahead of you to meet you there. Hurry! Now!

NARRATOR: Shocked and bewildered the women ran from the tomb to find the disciples. Mary meanwhile found Peter and John and told them what she had seen.

MARY: John! They've taken Jesus out of the tomb!

JOHN: What?

MARY: It's true, I'm serious, he's gone. I don't know where they've put him! Hurry, come and have a look.

PETER: This had better not be a joke! Have you seen what time it is?

MARY: Peter! It's anything but a joke! Come on, hurry!

NARRATOR: Peter and John ran for the tomb with Mary close behind. John was the more athletic of the two and as they neared the grave, he ran ahead. He slowed as he came to the tomb and stared at the open doorway. He peered inside, leaning on the stone as he gasped for breath.

PETER: Out of the way, John! Stop blocking the door!

NARRATOR: Peter came crashing through and hurtled straight inside the open tomb. He stared aghast at the empty grave clothes, huffing and snorting as he tried to make sense of it.

PETER: What?! Where . . . She was right! Mary was right! He's gone! John look, he's gone!

JOHN: I know — I can see! It's what he said, isn't it?

PETER: What?

JOHN: He's risen isn't he?

PETER: What!?

JOHN: He's risen.

PETER: I don't know what you're on about! He's gone. The Romans have done it again. They've stolen his body! I bet it was Caiaphas and his murdering cronies. Crucifixion wasn't enough for

them — now they're into body-snatching.

JOHN: Peter think! Listen to yourself — it doesn't make sense.

PETER: I know it doesn't make sense — but I'll find out who's responsible. Come on!

NARRATOR: Peter left the garden muttering to himself, with John close behind. They passed Mary on the way but simply pushed her aside. They returned to their homes but Mary stayed close to the tomb. She looked in but wouldn't enter, afraid of what she might find. She sat on a rock and began to cry quietly, feeling overwhelmed and confused. As she sat weeping, Mary heard a footfall behind her. She jumped a little at the sudden noise, and turned to see the gardener looking down at her.

MARY: Was it you? Did you open the tomb and move him? Tell me please!

JESUS: Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?

MARY: I'm looking for Jesus. This is his tomb, but he's not here! They've taken him away and I may never see him again.

JESUS: Mary.

MARY: If you just tell me where he is, I . . . (pause)

JESUS: Mary.

MARY: Jesus? Is . . . is it you?

JESUS: Yes, Mary, it's me.

MARY: But how? What's happened — is it really you? Is it really? How?

JESUS: Yes, Mary, it really is.

NARRATOR: Overcome with joy she threw herself at Jesus' feet and clung to them for dear life.

MARY: O this is amazing! Jesus, my friend, my teacher! You're alive! Thank you! Thank you! You're alive. You're alive!! After everything they did to you. . . .

JESUS: Listen to me Mary, I have to go back to my Father soon, so don't try to hold onto me. I'll be with you for a while. But listen, I have a job for you. This is really, really important. Go and tell the others about this. Give them this message, say: Jesus said, "I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Have you got that?

MARY: I think so, but. . . .

JESUS: No buts, come on, you have to do it now. I'll see you again soon, I promise.

NARRATOR: Mary leapt up and ran, her head still turned on him, her eyes fixed in case he should disappear again. Eventually she lost sight of him as she hurried away through the garden, back to the others, to tell them the incredible, extraordinary news. Jesus is alive!

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Sermon (*Joseph*)

"A Go Ahead God"

Offertory Invitation (*Joseph*)

When we have seen the Christ, that makes all the difference in our view of life. When we have encountered life, we can no longer pursue the ways of death. When we realize how much we have received from a loving God, our gratitude pours forth in eagerness to share good news with the world.

(8:30)

"Because He Lives" — arr. Carol Tornquist

(11)

"Now the Green Blade Riseth" — French/arr. J. Carter

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 (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: We consecrate all we have brought to share, that the message of today may spread through the streets and across the lands, bringing within these walls and bursting out for all the world to hear and observe. May the glad songs motivate practical ministries.

ALL: **As forgiven and forgiving people, we take new life into the marketplace and communities,**

into our jobs and schools, into our social life and leisure hours. May all we offer express true thankfulness. In the name of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymns #310 (red, vs. 1, 3)

“He Lives”

The Promise of the Empty Tomb (8:30 *Tom & Char H.*, 11 *Jim & Harry*)

by Chloe Axford

The promise of the empty tomb rips the rug from under your feet,
and says hold on tight we're going for a ride into the deep unknown
The promise of the empty tomb says the story doesn't end the way you think it will.
Yes, your future is set in stone, but I carved it and it's beautiful
The promise of the empty tomb says you are worth so much more than you think you are
You are to die for and I did
The promise of the empty tomb drives nails through darkness and says trust me
I have a plan and it is good
The promise of the empty tomb rolls back the stone
dances on death and says why are you crying, don't you know me?

Commissioning and Blessing (*John*)

PASTOR: In Christ, we have been rescued from death. At the cross, we have learned the cost of true love.

ALL: **In Jesus, we have observed courage and faithfulness. At the empty tomb, we have met the power of love.**

PASTOR: The One who was rejected holds the key to life. The key of unconditional love is passed on to us.

ALL: **We have seen the risen Christ and we are changed. We have been chosen as witnesses to resurrection.**

PASTOR: May the love of the risen Christ nourish and sustain us. May the eternal light of the world renew and inspire us to lives of care and compassion. May we go forward and be the body of the risen Christ. Alleluia! Amen.

ALL: **Alleluia! Amen.**

Postlude (9)
(11)

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” — arr. R. Kevin Boesiger
“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” — R. Williams

Announcements

Today, March 31

Easter

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463>. Or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org or by searching YouTube for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- 9:30 a.m. Continental Easter Brunch — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. A.K.T.S. (Aldersgate Kids Take on Service) Easter Egg Hunt — Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
<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>



Tuesday, April 2

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, April 4

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

Friday, April 5

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 10:30 a.m. Celebration of Life for Frankey & Gordon Ostlund — Worship Center and online followed by lunch

Next Sunday, April 7 Holy Humor Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:45 a.m. A.K.T.S. (Aldersgate Kids Take on Service) Story of Noah's Ark with Tom & Char Haggart — Room 2
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Room 4
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Sunshine Room
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Next Monday, April 8

- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma (Zeta chapter) — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees — Room 4

Tuesday, April 9

- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class — Aldersgate Office

Friday, April 12

- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and enjoy playing 10 Point Pitch.

Saturday, April 13

10:30 a.m. Style Show — St. Paul U.M. Church, 1144 M St.

Tuesday, April 16**National Healthcare Decisions Day**

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom — Room 4

Wednesday, April 17

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4. Tie quilts for missions.

Thursday, April 18

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom

Saturday, April 20**Faith Climate Action Week**

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

9:00 a.m. Blue River District Spring Retreat — South Gate U.M. Church, 3500 Pioneers

Sunday, April 21**Festival of God's Creation**

12:15 p.m. Potato Bake — Sunshine Room

Tuesday, April 23

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group "Resources to Assist Caregivers at Home" — Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 24**Administrative Professionals Day**

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry "Flooding in Lincoln" with Dave Landis, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District — Worship Center and online

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

- 31** Kathy Dombrowski
- 1** Dave & Kristin Owen
- 4** Bill & Kathy Dombrowski

Nadyne Bauer has had cataract surgery

Dick Easley

Shirley Hanley

Laura Marshall

Zach Steward

John

Judy Faubel

Keller Hustad

Lynda Nordyke

Roxanne & Richard Swyers

Dennis Frederick

Dallas Huston

Larry, Sandy Gores' dad

Jacob



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

Ava Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece, was diagnosed with gastroparesis. Prayers for healing, that her new medication helps and wisdom for the medical team.

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.

The family of David Schuerman, Chuck & Mary Schuerman's son from Beatrice who died 3/22/24.

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."

The family of Ruth Caddy Vyhldal who died 3/20/24

People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine