

Aldersgate United Methodist Church



8:30 a.m.

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

March 2, 2025
Transfiguration Sunday

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Stacey Lienemann
Lector: Harry Kellenbarger

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Joseph Rafique
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
Keyboardist: Deanna Steward
Organist: Mary K. Burns
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 2, 2025

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

Music for Centering Prayer (8:30) “Holy Ground” — arr. Carol Tornquist
(11) “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” — arr. Gail Ann Wasson

On this last Sunday after Epiphany which we celebrate as the Transfiguration of Jesus, we pause to hold within us the presence of Something More, which will strengthen and transform us for the journey into Lent. Mindful of this let us enter our worship.

Opening Truth (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Harry*)

LEADER: This is my Son, my Chosen One

ALL: **listen to Him.**

Call to Worship (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Harry*)

LEADER: Our God has invited us to this moment of meeting. We come together to talk and listen to God.

ALL: **May our faces shine in anticipation.**

LECTOR: We share in a new covenant to promise and hope.
Our spirits have been set free for worship and praise.

ALL: **We come with boldness to encounter our Creator.
We assemble here, eager to be changed by God.**

LECTOR: Our fears melt into awe and wonder before God. Our failures become opportunities for learning.

ALL: **Let us praise God’s holy name in chorus. Let us share in the glory of life. What a gift!**

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

LEADER: Transforming Spirit, who awakened Jesus’ disciples on the mountaintop, awaken us here that we may discern the vision you place before us. Through clouds of wonderment, of uncertainty, and of anxiety, we listen for the Word Christ has for us amid the perils of our day.

ALL: **We are grateful, O God, that you have drawn us here to worship the astounding glory of your presence and to commune with you. Here we are waiting for your further revelation within and around. We dare to question our call and examine ourselves, for we want to share your truth, not our own biases and manipulations, with the world. Come to enlighten and empower us. In the name of Your Chosen Son, Jesus, we ask. Amen.**

Hymn #103 (red)

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

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

PASTOR: Holy Mystery, we have experienced your glory in things both grand and ordinary: in red earth canyons and the call of an owl; in ancient forests and children on the playground; in a hope-filled birth and a quiet walk on the beach. To all these things, we say,

ALL: **Glory! Praise be to you!**

PASTOR: We bring to mind those times recently when we were startled by your presence unveiled and free in our midst. (in silence thank God for a moment of experiencing His presence)
For all these experiences, we say,

ALL: **Glory! Praise be to you!**

PASTOR: Grateful for the experience of your sacred presence, we pray for those who are in need of a home, need of a healing, need of reconciliation. (share names of those with such needs) We say together,

ALL: **Glory! Praise be to you!**

PASTOR: May each moment of glory — each embrace of the Sacred More — empower us to be more. And

through our faithfulness, may your realm be established among us as it is in the heart of your holy mystery. We ask this as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, 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 #451 (8:30 red)
Special Music (11)

“Be Thou My Vision”
“Upon a Holy Mount” — *Aldersgate Choir*

God’s Word Proclaimed (*Joseph*) II Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2
(8:30 *John*, 11 *Harry*) Luke 9:28-36

LEADER: About eight days later, Jesus took with him

ALL: **Peter, James and John and went up on the mountain to pray.**

LEADER: And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men,

ALL: **Moses and Elijah, talking to him and they appeared in glory!**

LEADER: They were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake,

ALL: **they saw Jesus’ glory and the two who stood with him.**

LEADER: Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus,

ALL: **Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.**

LEADER: While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them;

ALL: **and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said: This is my Son, my chosen; listen to Him!**

LEADER: When the voice had spoken,

ALL: **Jesus was found alone and they kept silent**

LEADER: and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Sermon (*Joseph*)

“Without the Mask”

Reflecting God’s Glory (*Joseph*)

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PASTOR: We are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (pause)

Crafted, created, by the divine creator — intricate, beautiful, mysterious bodies, souls, hearts and minds. We are sculpted and fashioned into a masterpiece, for the Almighty to hang upon the wall of heaven and declare before all the angels, “it is good!” We are created and saved by the same hands, the hands that ‘threw stars into space, to cruel nails surrendered.’ The very same hands. (pause)

Do you find it easier to think of yourself as a sinner, or as a masterpiece of God’s creation? (pause)

We are both, but because of Jesus, it is the masterpiece that God sees when he looks at us. Receive his delight in you today. (pause)

What good works have you been up to, that God prepared for you in advance? What good works might God be preparing for you this week, this month, this year? (pause)

The good news is for everyone, in every circumstance and difficulty. What might the good news mean for those closest to you? (pause)

We, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. What veils your face, hiding the good news from others’ view? What area of your life do you long to see transformed into his likeness? Offer that to God now. (pause)

We reflect God’s character to those around us. We reflect the good news we have received to people we know. Whose life do you long to reflect good news into? (pause)

ALL: **Father, we long to reflect your likeness and embody your good news. Continue to transform us, we pray, by your Spirit. Thank you, Jesus, for creating us and saving us with the same hands, and for giving us good works to do as we freely respond to your grace. Creator, Son, Spirit, live in us and work through us. Amen.**

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. 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."

ALL: **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. 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 Before Sharing the Bread and Cup (*Jim*) Sara Hargreaves © engageworship.org

(There will be times of silence for you to listen to God and make your confession.)

ALL: **Christ's body and blood:** (arms out to side; then check pulse)

for us they were given. (hands out front palms up, push forward)

This bread and this cup (palm out, slice with other hand; then mime holding a cup)

tell us we're forgiven. (circle fist [facing down] on palm)

PASTOR: Jesus, you died on the cross so that I might be forgiven of everything I do wrong. Sometimes I remember that, but other times I forget, and continue to hurt you with my actions. Please bring to mind any things I need to say sorry for now, in the quiet. (silence)

ALL: **Christ's body and blood:** (arms out to side; then check pulse)
for us they were given. (hands out front palms up, push forward)
This bread and this cup (palm out, slice with other hand; then mime holding a cup)
tell us we're forgiven. (circle fist [facing down] on palm)

PASTOR: Jesus, this communion meal is for all people, because you always welcome everyone. Sometimes I remember that, but other times I forget, and I treat people badly. Please bring to mind any ways I have mistreated other people, so I can say sorry now, in the quiet. (silence)

ALL: **Christ's body and blood:** (arms out to side; then check pulse)
for us they were given. (hands out front palms up, push forward)
This bread and this cup (palm out, slice with other hand; then mime holding a cup)
tell us we're forgiven. (circle fist [facing down] on palm)

PASTOR: Jesus, this communion meal is like a preview of eating with you forever in a world put right. Sometimes I remember that, but other times I forget, and I don't live as if you are coming again. Please bring to mind ways I can live which will bring heaven to earth for the people around me. (silence)

ALL: **Christ's body and blood:** (arms out to side; then check pulse)
for us they were given. (hands out front palms up, push forward)
This bread and this cup (palm out, slice with other hand; then mime holding a cup)
tell us we're forgiven. (circle fist [facing down] on palm)

Sharing the Bread and Cup of Christ (The offering plates are between the front row of chairs.
Please bring your offering when you come forward to receive Communion.)

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

PASTOR: Thank you, God of our Lord Jesus Christ and God of us all for all that you have done and continue to do for us. Special thanks to you for the love fest of your beloved Son Jesus in which we participated. We have been awakened to the glory of God shining around us in gifts both great and small. Thankful for your faithful presence, we give ourselves and our time, talent and treasure — a symbol of our faithfulness in return.

ALL: **May they bring healing where there is brokenness, comfort where there is chaos, and justice wherever there is a need. May we be faithful in our mutual ministry which we perform in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Hymn #368 (red, vs. 1-3) "My Hope Is Built"

Commissioning and Blessing (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: We have been talking with God; what a privilege! We have glimpsed eternity, what a joy!

ALL: **How awesome to worship at the footstool of God!
The veil has been lifted, but the mystery remains.**

PASTOR: The season closes. Another begins with its own journey,
leading to a cross, and through that cross to new life.

ALL: **But there is much we must encounter before we reach that empty tomb.**

PASTOR: Take these hopes, birthed in the memory of God's tender firm voice proclaiming that, wherever we are, we are in the presence of the Christ, God's beloved Son, in whom we have become God's beloved. Amen.

ALL: **Praise and glory be to God. Amen.**

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

Postlude (11)

"I Stand Amazed in the Presence" — arr. C.E. Walz

Announcements

Today, March 2 Transfiguration Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com/@aldersgateunitedmethodist8463> or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org. You may also search YouTube for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Room 4
- 9:45 a.m. Middle School/High School Youth Sunday School — Room 1.
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School — Room 2.
- 10:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

Tuesday, March 4

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
- 7:00 p.m. Life and Legacy Planning Series (NUMF) — Worship Center and online. How can you help Aldersgate or another Methodist church with Kristine Roberts and Sharon Schmidt from the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation

Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday

- 7:30-9 a.m. and 5-6:30 p.m. Drive-Thru Ashes — Parking Lot
- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City* a biography by Andrea Elliott — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service — Worship Center and online

Thursday, March 6

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

Friday, March 7 World Day of Prayer

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 5:30 p.m. Clinic with a Heart Gala and Fundraiser — Cornhusker Hotel. Cocktail Hour, 6:30 Dinner and program begins, silent & live auction, wine & whiskey pull

Saturday, March 8

- 11:00 a.m. Citizen's Climate Lobby — Sunshine Room
- 6:00 p.m. Breaking the Ramadan Fast — Sunshine Room

Next Sunday, March 9 First Sunday of Lent

- 2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Worship Center
- 9:45 a.m. Middle School/High School Youth Sunday School — Room 1.
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School — Room 2. Taught by Char Haggar and Sheila Kellenbarger
- 10:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

Next Monday, March 10

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools" a documentary — Room 4. Pat Ruth, hostess
- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — Zoom

Friday, March 14

6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 15

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

Sunday, March 16

12:15 p.m. Potato Bake — Sunshine Room. A fundraiser for Aldersgate's General Budget. A sign-up sheet to help is available in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday, March 18

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City* a biography by Andrea Elliott — Room 4

Wednesday, March 19

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, March 20 Spring Begins

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Tuesday, March 25

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group "The Value of Respite" by Hanna Quiring, Nebraska Lifespan Respite and Mollie George, Messiah Respite — Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry Series "The Big Balance" with Marc Shkolnick, Lincoln Electric System — Worship Center and online

Tuesday, April 1

April Fool's Day

11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th

7:00 p.m. Life and Legacy Planning Series "RMDs, QCDs, Donor Advised Funds and Tax Implications"

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

2 Doug Wysocki

5 John Goldrich

7 Joe Gores

David & Julie Huston

Dick Easley

Keller Hustad

Lynda Nordyke

Zach Steward

John

Judy Faubel

Dallas Huston

Loyal Park

Jacob

Dennis Frederick

Laura Marshall

Roxie & Richard Swyers

Arlene



Jody Anderson, Hayley Jambor's mother who has a brain tumor

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

Jessie Menck, Ken Hartwig's niece who has bile duct cancer

Ava Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece, was diagnosed with gastroparesis.

Jennifer Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece

Tim Murphy, a veteran with memory issues

Isaiah Pierce, Karen Pierce's grandson who was born 12/13/22 with heart issues

Alex Ronne, Pat Ruth's cousin, a 7-year-old girl living in Colorado diagnosed with MLD, a rare, incurable, genetic disease.

Ross Teske and his missionary work in Talavera de la Reina, Spain

People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine