

Aldersgate United Methodist Church



January 1, 2023
Epiphany Sunday

**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

9:00 a.m.

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward
Greeter: Dan Steward

11:00 a.m. Service

Lector: Jim Miller
Greeter/Usher: Stacey Lienemann

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

*Worshippers are welcomed to use their own terminology for God.
If you are considering membership, please contact our pastor, 402-489-1510.*



January 1, 2023

Greeting and Announcements (9:00 *Joseph*, 11:00 *Jim*)

Music for Centering Prayer (9) “Mary, Did You Know?” — arr. Jack Schrader
(11) “Ding Dong! Merrily on High” — French carol

Call to Worship (9 *Joseph*, 11 *Jim*) based on Isaiah 60:1-6

PASTOR: Arise, shine, for the light has come.

ALL: **Light radiates.**

PASTOR: Lift up your eyes and look around. See how light shines here in your sons and daughters.

ALL: **Light reflects the glory of God.**

PASTOR: Look around.

ALL: **Our hearts thrill and rejoice. God is here again.**

Opening Prayer (9 *Joseph*, 11 *Jim*)

PASTOR: O God, you made of one blood all nations, and, by a star in the East, revealed to all peoples him whose name is Emmanuel.

ALL: **Enable us who know your presence with us so to proclaim his unsearchable riches that all may come to his light and bow before the brightness of his rising, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn #240 (red)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings..
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1734; alt. by George Whitefield, 1753
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

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

PASTOR: God of overwhelming love and grace, in this Christmas season we come before you in prayer.
We remember how you chose to live among us, declaring that our world was a worthy place for
you, the Creator, to be present.
And so, at this time, we pray for our world and for all who live in it. May we all live in the reali-

zation who and whose we are. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for our international, national and local leaders, for fire fighters and law enforcement personnel, that they will turn to you for wisdom when making difficult decisions. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: This day we think and pray for whom this is a difficult time. For those who are missing loved ones who have died or are far away. For those who are grieving the loss of job, the loss of a relationship or the loss of hope. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are unable to be surrounded by others and who struggle with all the emphasis on family and togetherness in this season. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We think of and pray for all for whom the emphasis on “stuff” simply underscores not having enough. And we think of how grateful we are that you have sent Jesus into our world and into our lives. So, in thankfulness we say:

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: How might we reflect his message of thankfulness in our daily living? How might we share with others the true joy that Christ brings into our lives? How can we — like all creation — offer you the praise you deserve? Open our hearts, loving God. Stretch our understandings of our world that we might find new ways to journey with others in the days to come. 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 #254 (red)

“We Three Kings”

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

5. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

God's Word Proclaimed (9 *Joseph*, 11 *Jim*) Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon (*John*) "If You Pay Attention, You Will Be Guided in the Right Direction"
(*Joseph*) "Seek and You Will Find" (Matthew 7:7)

Sacrament of Holy 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 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 a 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. You sent a star to guide wise men to where Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light. 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.

ALL: **Amen.**

Before Sharing the Bread and Cup (*John*)

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.**

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (*John*) "An unexamined life is not worth living." — Aristotle

PASTOR: Epiphanies alter our path. New understanding shifts our direction but too often we think that nothing extraordinary ever happens.

ALL: **Forgive us, God.**

PASTOR: Too often, we fail to notice your revelation.

ALL: **Forgive us, God.**

PASTOR: Too often, we miss the amazing ways you become manifest.

ALL: **Forgive us, God.**

PASTOR: Too often, we ignore the guiding lights you have sent to intercede.

ALL: **Forgive us, God.** (silence)

PASTOR: The extraordinary wonder is that God loves us. God sends another beacon and then another until it stops and becomes the epiphany we need. God's grace, love and forgiveness is without end. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

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

PASTOR: Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, you brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising. We thank and praise you for all you have done and continue to do for us. Today at this time we thank you for the body and blood of Jesus, your eternal light, and for providing our souls the strength we need to make him known by our word and deed.

ALL: **As the Shepherds and the magi brought gifts to the child in the manger, we now do the same. Accept, O God of the nativity, our humble gifts of praise, sacrifice and thanksgiving. Bless them, multiply them, we pray, so your children are fed and you are glorified. In the name of Jesus, the newborn King, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #251 (red)

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn..
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

WORDS: John W. Work, Jr., 1907

MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986; © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Commissioning and Blessing (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Go forth in boldness and confidence. God in Christ will meet our needs and give us voice.

ALL: **How exciting it is to proclaim God's praise. Our hearts thrill and rejoice and we are radiant.**

PASTOR: God uses us to bring others to Jesus. God's epiphany is our mandate.

ALL: **We are servants of God's purpose. We will keep our eyes open to see God's epiphany.**

PASTOR: To this end, may God, from whom all blessings flow, continue to bless us and through us, this our world. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Guiding Stars (*Jim*)

Postlude (9)
(11)

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" — arr. Kenon D. Renfrow
"Carol of the Bells" — Ukrainian carol

Announcements

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Today, January 1

New Year's Day

9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt21eDWxyIs1fpzpfifo4LYg/live>. Or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org or on YouTube on the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska channel.

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, January 3

National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day

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

7:00 p.m. Advocacy 101: Learn to be an effective advocate for policies you care about — zoom at FirstPlymouth.org/cat

Wednesday, January 4

National Trivia Day

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

Thursday, January 5

National Bird Day

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

Friday, January 6

Epiphany

8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4

Next Sunday, January 8

Baptism of the Lord

9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt21eDWxyIs1fpzpfifo4LYg/live>. Or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org or on YouTube on the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska channel.

10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School with Katie Softley — Room 2

10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School — Room 1

10:00 a.m. Adult Discussion on Future Topics with Dwight Ganzel — Room 4

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Next Monday, January 9

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — zoom

Friday, January 13

National Rubber Ducky Day

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

Tuesday, January 17

7:00 p.m. Book Club *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin — Room 4

Wednesday, January 18

National Gourmet Coffee Day

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, January 19

National Popcorn Day

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

- Saturday, January 21** **National Hugging Day**
8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4
- Tuesday, January 24** **National Peanut Butter Day**
7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Zoom
- Sunday, January 29** **National Puzzle Day**
9 and 11 Hymn Sing
- Wednesday, February 1** **Change Your Password Day**
1:30 p.m. Book Club *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin — zoom
- Tuesday, February 7** **Send a Card to a Friend Day**
11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
- Friday, February 10**
6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, February 11** **National Inventor's Day**
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day — Christ U.M. Church, 4530 'A' St. Cost of \$20 includes lunch. Register for your choice of 2 workshops by Feb. 4 at www.nelegisbrief.org.
10:00 a.m. Bishop Wilson's Installation — Countryside U.M. Church, Topeka, KS
- Wednesday, February 15** **National Gumdrop Day**
1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4
- Thursday, February 16** **National Almond Day**
2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom
- Saturday, February 18**
8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4
- Tuesday, February 21** **National Sticky Bun Day**
7:00 p.m. Book Club *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell — Room 4
- Wednesday, February 22** **Ash Wednesday**
7:00 p.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- Tuesday, February 28** **National Tooth Fairy Day**
7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — zoom
- Wednesday, March 1** **World Compliment Day**
1:30 p.m. Book Club *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell — zoom
- Tuesday, March 7** **National Cereal Day**
11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
- Friday, March 10** **Middle Name Pride Day**
6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Room 4
- Wednesday, March 15** **National Peanut Lovers Day**
1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4
- Thursday, March 16** **Lips Appreciation Day**
2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom