

Aldersgate United Methodist Church



November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m.

Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward
Greeter: Dan Steward
Lector: Bill Nelson

11:00 a.m. Service

Lector: Rod Moore

**Aldersgate
United Methodist Church**
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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.*



November 27, 2022

Greeting and Announcements (9 Bill, 11 Rod)

Music for Centering Prayer (9) “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” — arr. Faye Lopez
(11) “Come, Messiah King” — arr. J. Rouse

Call to Worship (9 Bill, 11 Rod) (adapted from Romans 13:11-14)

LECTOR: *Brothers and sisters, awake, awake!*
ALL: **What time is it?**
LECTOR: *The night is far gone and the day is near!*
ALL: **What time is it?**
LECTOR: *Salvation is near! How should we live?*
ALL: **Let us lay aside the works of war.**
LECTOR: *Let us put on the armor of peace.*
ALL: **Let us live honorably. Let us worship God!**

Lighting the Advent Wreath (9 Char, 11)

Come and let us build a new creation because the world feels bleak. Salvation is nearer to us than it has been before, but right now — in this very moment — as the great season of Advent begins, it feels like we might never learn war anymore. So let us light a candle of HOPE to light our way.

Advent Hymn (to the tune of #2090, black)

Light the Advent candle one: now the hoping has begun;
we have started on our way, time to look for hope each day.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Procession

Explanation (Jim)

Reading (Jim)

In the bleakness of this moment we yearn for light that shines through all our fears as a beacon for all people. That light comes into the world and is never extinguished. We need light to hold on to that hope and so today we set the candle of HOPE on top of our reports of violence and destruction.

Opening Prayer (9 Bill, 11 Rod)

LECTOR: *With this one light, we pray: O God, we place this light in this holy space as a reminder that we are on this journey together.*
ALL: **Be light along all our paths. Lead us to a more just world, and help us to stay awake and present to your love in each ordinary day. Amen.**

Hymn #196 (red)

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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

PASTOR: Gracious and almighty God, you know that we fail to live as you would have us fully live and we fail to love as you would have us fully love, and the result is a world where so many live in various kinds of conflict.

ALL: **Consumed by the worries of the world, we struggle to think about anything other than ourselves and our own. It seems our failings only fuel our bad habits of forgetting about you. We lay before you, Holy God, our broken promises, hurtful words, bad intentions and sinful ways, that you might somehow love us into wholeness and help us take small steps towards your greatest peace. We pray in Christ's name, whose coming we eagerly await. Amen.**

PASTOR: Friends, hear the Good News. Our gracious God gathers us from our warring ways and grants us the freedom to join God's new vision of a peaceful world. Friends, we are free from the prison of war, free to construct peace. I declare to you now that in Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven. Amen?

ALL: **Amen. Glory and thanks be to God.**

Sharing a Sign of Peace

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (9 *Joseph & Bill*, 11 *Joseph & Rod*)

PASTOR: O God of new vision and hope, on this brink of Advent, as we start new steps towards the manger, we are acutely aware of your presence, but we are also aware of the echoes of gunfire, explosions of landmines and roar of tank engines.

LECTOR: *War may feel far away sometimes and other times it feels very close to home. How do you want us to manifest change?*

PASTOR: How can we take small steps and large steps to turn swords into ploughshares? How do we become people who crave peace and not war?

LECTOR: *How did we become complicit in such war?*

PASTOR: How did the world become strange?

LECTOR: *We don't know all the answers, but we do know to whom we may pray. We pray to you, creator God, redeemer God, loving and holy God.*

PASTOR: Healer of the nations and teacher of peace, save us from our power, save us from our violence, save us from our fear and hatred.

LECTOR: *We will hold vigil, stay awake, watching for how we might next act in peace, love in truth and live without fear.*

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

We pause now in silence, lifting up to you, aloud or in the silence of our hearts, those nations, those households, those workplaces, those marriages, those schools, where we know that conflict of some kind rages; places where your peace is needed. For these places, we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **God of peace, grant peace to your people.**

PASTOR: We pray now the model 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 #211 (9:00 red, vs. 1-4)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; *The Hymnal*, 1940; Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986

MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

Sts. 1, 3 © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Special Music (11:00)

“A Little Child Will Come to Lead Us” — *Aldersgate Choir*

The Voice of the Prophet (9 *Bill*, 11 *Rod*)

(based on Isaiah 2:1-5)

God sent prophets to God's people to tell them what they were doing wrong and what they were doing right. The prophets also explained God's feelings for them, how powerful God is and that God loves them all. They talked about things that were happening right then and ideas about what might possibly happen later.

After dreaming through the night, Isaiah the prophet woke up worrying about the land of Judah and its largest city of Jerusalem. The Assyrian army was heading in their direction. The people were frightened. They wondered what would happen when the army arrived and if they would be able to keep their homeland. They wondered what was going to happen to them. Isaiah had been telling the people about how God was feeling about them and all that they were doing. Isaiah wanted to tell them about God's hope for them and the good things God wanted for all people. On this beautiful morning, the message was all about the best ideas that people could have about God and God's hope for all. Isaiah told about future days when the holy mountain of God would be the highest and the best mountain forever. All nations would see it and come. It would be like a big parade. The people would say, “Let us go up to the mountain of God to learn about God and how to live in God's ways.” Isaiah dreamed that the people would live in peace. The countries would take their weapons, melt them, and then make good gardening tools and make things grow. God would help them take the things used for war and turn them into things that help people and bring peace to the land.

Sermon (*Joseph*)

“Learn, Unlearn, Relearn, Outlearn”

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

PASTOR: The psalmist says, “I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!” We come to God's house to pray for peace, justice and hope. And our offerings help us as a community of faith and support us as we work towards God's call. Let us worship God with God's tithes and our offerings.

ALL: **God, may our gifts to you — these ordinary gifts of the work of our lives — be used for extraordinary things. We dedicate what we receive to your work for peace, justice and hope in the world. May our gifts, no matter how small, help us take small steps towards your greatest peace. In the name of Jesus we ask. Amen.**

Hymn #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 (Joseph)

PASTOR: May God give us courage, give us vision and give us unending peace — the kind of peace that God knows is possible.

ALL: **May God guide our journeys that we may bear Jesus’ gifts of love and life and hope.**

PASTOR: May God bless you and keep you. May God’s face shine upon you, from here to the top of Mount Zion. May God look on every one of us with kindness and give us that perfect peace that surpasses all understanding. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

**Postlude (9)
(11)**

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” — arr. Zach Unke
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” — J. Rouse

Announcements

Today, November 27 First Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt21eDWxyIs1fpzpifo4LYg/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 Sunday School Advent Crafts — Sunshine Room
- 10:00 a.m. Sustainable Gifts with Kari Beckenhauer and Larry Ruth — Room 4
- 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>



Monday, November 28

- Office is closed.
- 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Living and Worship Planning Team — Room 4

Tuesday, November 29

- 3:00 p.m. OLLI “My Backyard” — Sunshine Room

Wednesday, November 30

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

Thursday, December 1 World AIDS Day

- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and Social Hour then Carpool — Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Food Bank Tour — 1221 Kingbird Rd.
- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates

Saturday, December 3

- 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lay Servant Training — Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Nebraska Herbal Society Christmas Luncheon — Sunshine Room

Next Sunday, December 4

- 9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt21eDWxyIs1fpzpifo4LYg/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. Hymns of the Season with Dwight Ganzel and Jim Miller — Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Children’s Sunday School — Room 2
- 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, December 5

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith Christmas Gathering — Fireside Room, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn

Tuesday, December 6

- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th. Seniors socialize over lunch.

Wednesday, December 7

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *The Secret Daughter* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda — zoom

Friday, December 9

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

Sundays, December 11, 18

10:00 a.m. Hymns of the Season with Dwight Ganzel and Jim Miller — Room 4

Thursday, December 15

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom

Saturday, December 17

8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast — Room 4

Sunday, December 18 *Charles Wesley’s Birthday*

9:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols

11:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols with the Aldersgate Choir

12:00 noon Christmas Potluck — Sunshine Room

Wednesday, December 21

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Saturday, December 24

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service — Worship Center and online

Tuesday, December 27

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Zoom

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

1:30 p.m. Book Club *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin — zoom

Friday, January 13

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

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4



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 Wednesday, 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 Harry Kellenbarger by Wed., December 21.

