



# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**December 11, 2022**  
Third Sunday of Advent

**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: Jan Malone

**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)  
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jrafique@GreatPlainsUMC.org

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.*



December 11, 2022

### Greeting and Announcements (*Joseph*)

**Music for Centering Prayer** (9)                    “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” — arr. Mark Hayes  
(11)                    “He Shall Feed His Flock” — from ‘The Messiah’ by G.F. Handel

### Lighting the Advent Wreath (11 *Dick*)

Let your light shine. Let your spirit soar. Throw open your mind. Hand over your heart. Here it comes in love. It shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows. It will not cower and cannot be contained. It was the hope of the saints, the call of the prophets. It was the fire in the belly of John the Baptist and the courage of Mary. Lamp in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky. Love, you lead us home.

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

Light the Advent candle three: think of love that Christmas morn;  
Come adore on bended knee, the Christ Child in a stable born.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining under the stars above,  
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas love.

based on WORDS and MUSIC: Mary Lu Walker

### Call to Worship (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Come away from haste and frantic busyness. This is the season for quiet waiting.  
ALL:        **It is hard to still our souls when we are so busy, to be patient with ourselves or others.**  
PASTOR: Receive God’s mercy and strengthen your hearts. A Savior is coming; God’s love is near.  
ALL:        **We want to hear and believe God’s promises. We want to become patient, loving seekers.**  
PASTOR: God presents us with a high and holy way. Come before God now with praise and singing.  
ALL:        **We sense the joy God offers to us. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

### Opening Prayer (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Mighty God, we rejoice that you strengthen our weak hands and make firm our feeble knees. You open our eyes and unstop our ears. You meet our hungers with good things. You disturb our false pride while helping us discover our true strength. You topple us from our pretensions while lifting up the lowly to claim the inner power you alone can provide. Awaken in us the gladness that comes when we recognize your presence.  
ALL:        **O heavenly Presence, whose claim on us is strong enough to change our direction, look with favor on this gathered congregation, that none may go astray but all may respond with joy to your promises and go out to share your good news with the hungry and needy and oppressed. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

### Hymn #224 (red)

#### “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

WORDS: 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Latin; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1855

MUSIC: German melody; harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

### **Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation** (*John*)

PASTOR: To all whose lives seem like a desert wasteland, God invites: come to the living waters. To all who feel they are wrestling with lions, God offers a refuge. The judge who is standing before us awaits our confession with compassion and the promise of healing.

ALL: **Come into our emptiness, gracious God. We feel empty because we have shut you out of our lives. Break through our pretensions, Holy One. We pretend to be powerful because we have not claimed the peace that is available through 'knowing you.' Quiet our grumbling and complaining. The fire of impatience is burning within us because we have focused on things, not on you. Enter our lives with the forgiveness you have promised to all who are truly sorry for their unfaithfulness. Release us from our self-created prison. Amen.**

PASTOR: God speaks to our fearful and guilty hearts. Be strong. Do not fear. I will come to save you. Sorrow and sighing flee away. Joy and gladness are yours. "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have good news brought to them." Praise God for his steadfast love! Amen?

ALL: **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: You are the God of Mary and the God of us. You give us courage to speak your truth and praise you in all things. Thank you for giving us voices to raise in praise and in joy.

ALL: **Help our spirits magnify you, O God.**

PASTOR: O God, you give us the strength to lift up those who are oppressed or marginalized. Give us strength as we seek lives wrapped in your justice.

ALL: **Help us be patient as progress is made.**

PASTOR: God, may we lift our voices in loud song as we rejoice in you and the work you have done for us. May we join in Mary's song and be forever changed by our singing. Amen.

We lift up to you, aloud or in the silence of our hearts, all those in need of healing and peace.  
(pause for names)

We wrap all of these prayers in that 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 #238** (9:00 red)

#### **"Angels We Have Heard on High"**

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
 What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
 come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
4. See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;  
 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.  
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

WORDS: Trad. French carol; trans. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862

MUSIC: French carol melody; arr. by Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1964; © 1964 Abingdon Press  
**Special Music** (11:00) “What Child Is This?” — *Lia Havlena*

**God’s Word Proclaimed** (9 *John*, 11 *Jan*) Isaiah 35:1-10  
 Matthew 11:2-11

**Sermon** (*Joseph*) “The Least Are Greater than John the Baptist”

**Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self** (*Joseph*) (I give because I have been given.)

PASTOR: You are invited to open your palms.

God continues to lift up the lowly and to topple the powerful from their thrones. God judges us, not by worldly standards of greatness but according to the genuineness of our compassion and the extent of our faithfulness. Our offerings are one measure of our priorities.

ALL: **Majestic God, thank you for inviting us to share the blessings you pour out on us. We want to extend the healing ministry of Jesus who gave sight to those who were blind and new insight to some who only pretended to see. Use our resources to heal attitudes as well as bodies, to bring wholeness, not just cures. Help us to address the inequities of the earth that leave so many without food or shelter or hope. Lead us into your realm in the midst of our daily living. In Jesus’ name we ask. 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** (*John*)

PASTOR: God has been present with us here today. God also sends us out into the world.

ALL: **Our eyes and ears have been opened to God's truth. We have the good news for all who need to hear it.**

PASTOR: My brothers and sisters, the Mighty One is doing good things in and through us. Go and give birth to the seed which has been planted within you by the Spirit of God. In the name of God: the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer. Amen.

ALL: **Let it be so. Amen.**

**Postlude** (9)

“Rejoice!” — arr. Jay Rouse

(11)

“Prepare the Way, O Zion” — Swedish Carol

# Announcements

## Today, December 11 Third 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](http://www.aldersgatelinc.org) or on YouTube on the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska channel.
- 10:00 a.m. Children Sunday School — Room 2
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School — Room 1
- 10:00 a.m. Hymns of the Season with Jim Miller — 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>

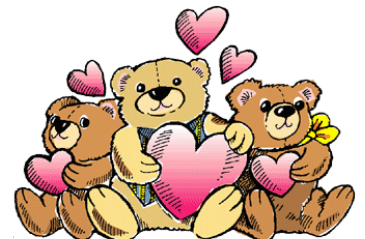


## Wednesday, December 14

- 10:00 a.m. A.R.M.S. (Retired Ministers and Spouses) — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

## Thursday, December 15

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates
- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom
- Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81939800475?pwd=K1EwbjFqTTZ3OS9rNnBHSC9ubWZyQT09>  
Meeting ID: 819 3980 0475  
Passcode: 832006  
One tap mobile  
+12532158782,,81939800475#,,,832006# US (Tacoma)  
Dial by your location  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81939800475?pwd=K1EwbjFqTTZ3OS9rNnBHSC9ubWZyQT09>



## Saturday, December 17

- 8-noon Crownpoint Townhomes Christmas Breakfast — Sunshine Room

## Next Sunday, December 18 Charles Wesley's Birthday

- 9:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt21eDWxyIs1fpzpifo4LYg/live>. Or at your convenience at [www.aldersgatelinc.org](http://www.aldersgatelinc.org) or on YouTube on the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska channel.
- 10:00 a.m. Hymns of the Season with Jim Miller — Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School — Room 1
- 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School — Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols with the Aldersgate Choir — Worship Center
- 12:00 noon Christmas Potluck — Sunshine Room
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

## Saturday, December 24

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

## Sunday, December 25

- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online

**Tuesday, December 27**

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

**Tuesday, January 3**

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, 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

**Thursday, January 19**

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

**Saturday, January 21**

8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast — Room 4

**Tuesday, January 24**

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

**Sunday, January 29**

9 and 11 Hymn Sing

**Wednesday, February 1**

1:30 p.m. Book Club *Hamnet* by Maggie O’Farrell — zoom

**Tuesday, February 7**

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



**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 Mary K. Burns, Carol Clymer or Harry Kellenbarger by Wednesday, December 21.