



*Christ
the Savior
is Born!*

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

December 25, 2022
Christmas Day

**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

11:00 a.m. Service
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Lector: Stacey Lienemann

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Joseph Rafique
Keyboardist : Deanna Steward
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.*



Greeting and Announcements (*Stacey*)

Music for Centering Prayer “ ” — arr.

Call to Worship (*Stacey*)

LECTOR: O sing to the Lord a new song.
ALL: **For he has done marvelous things.**
LECTOR: Make a joyful noise to the Lord.
ALL: **Break forth into songs of joyous praise.**
LECTOR: Sing praises to the Lord with a lyre.
ALL: **With the lyre and great melodies.**
LECTOR: With trumpets and horns.
ALL: **Make a joyful noise before the King.**

Opening Prayer (*Stacey*)

LECTOR: O God of the beginning and ending, we turn to you as the only true light. All else in our world is darkness without you. Even in the blackest night of despair and the farthest reaches of the ocean deep, you are with us.
ALL: **Open us to the light of your truth and grace that we may be free to live a new and abundant life. Give us faith to live joyfully obedient to you as the way, the truth and the life. We pray in the confidence that you have truly become flesh and lived among us in Jesus, the Christ and our Savior forever. Amen.**

Hymn #234 (red)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin’s womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

5. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee with love and awe.
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

WORDS & MUSIC: John F. Wade, ca. 1743; trans. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841,
harm. from *Collections of Motetts or Antiphons*, 1792

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

PASTOR: We confess, O God, that we cannot love or trust anything we cannot see.

ALL: **We love certainty, we love results. We do not have the patience faith requires. We do not have the peace to wait for you. We grow faithless in our impatience and sin against you, ourselves, our neighbor and creation. Our only hope is in your forgiveness. Again and again,**

PASTOR: Hear now the assurance of your forgiveness: God's great revelation is your forgiveness. The Word became flesh, Jesus, took your sins to the cross and died there. You are forgiven; you are free. Amen?

ALL: **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: God of compassion, we bring our prayers to you for all the precious gifts we receive: moments of beauty; love from family and friends; food from the earth; encounters that cultivate hope. Receive our gratitude for all this and more. (silence)

We bring our prayers to you for all those we have concern for: lives burdened by loss or heart-ache; those struggling with illness or pain; countries devastated by violence or conflict; all those carrying hidden sorrows. Grant them strength, healing and peace. (silence)

We bring our prayers to you for all those who, like the magi, are searching for something: some for new meaning; some for the right path; some for community; some for your presence. Grant a kind and guiding light to them. (silence)

We bring these prayers to you, along with all those which remain unspoken, trusting that you have received them all with mercy and grace.

ALL: **We are both pilgrims who journey and innkeepers who give travelers a place of sanctuary. We keep our hearts open to the transformation of the journey and the transformation of giving warm welcome.**

PASTOR: We do this as we continue to 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 #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: 14th cent. Latin; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1855

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

God's Word Proclaimed (*Stacey*)

Hebrews 1:1-12
John 1:1-14

Sermon (*Joseph*)

“ ”

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

PASTOR: As you, O God of creation, brought the light of life into the world in Jesus Christ, so may you empower us to shine light to those around us. You hold nothing back in giving yourself to us.

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 Savior of the world, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #242 (red)

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

2. Worship we the God-head, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

3. Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

WORDS: Christina G. Rossetti, 1885

MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by David Evans, 1927; by permission of Oxford University Press

Commissioning and Blessing (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: We are being sent out into the world and commissioned as messengers of good news.

ALL: **God grants us honest speech and warm compassion. God grants us discerning sight and deep insight.**

PASTOR: We have been blessed in the gift of a child. We are upheld by the gift of the Word made flesh.

ALL: **We go out to serve with joy and confidence. Let all the world join our happy songs.**

PASTOR: Go blessed by God: the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer to bless all you meet. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Postlude

“ ” — arr.



A Huge Thank You
from the Staff



Spirit of Giving



In memory of Karen Baisinger by David Baisinger

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. David E. Burns, Mr. & Mrs. Harry T. Burns and Dr. & Mrs. C.A. Medlar by Mary K. Burns

In memory of Margaret Ganzel by Dwight Ganzel

In memory of Marcy Miller by Ron L. Miller

In honor of the Minert Family and in memory of James Junge and John Minert by Ruby Minert

In memory of Dorothy Nelson, Martin Nelson, Howard Howser, Sr., Mildred Howser, Mike Vazzano and Walter Nelson by Bill & Phyllis Nelson

In memory of Richard & Elva Janak, LeRoy & Jean Nielsen, Ralph & Ruth Davidson and Marion & Ester Pittman by Colleen, Dave, Caleb, Madison and Jared Nielsen

In memory of Rudolph & Lorene Wahlstrom and Donald & Mary Lou Wright by Alane & Gary Wahlstrom

Announcements

.....

Today, December 25 Christmas Day

11:00 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.

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, December 26

7:00 p.m. Spiritual Living and Worship Planning Team — Room 4

Tuesday, December 27

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

Next Sunday, January 1

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.

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — 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