

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church



**December 4, 2022**  
Second Sunday of Advent

**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: Harry Kellenbarger

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 4, 2022

**Greeting and Announcements** (9 *John*, 11 *Harry*)

**Music for Centering Prayer** (9) “In the Bleak Midwinter” — arr. Matt Limbaugh  
(11) “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” — German Carol

**Lighting the Advent Wreath** (9 *Gaylene*, 11)

Last week we lighted the candle of hope. Today we light the candle of peace. We are the people called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

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

Light the Advent candle two: think of heavenly harmony;  
Angels singing “Peace on Earth” celebrate tranquility.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter eves,  
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas peace.

**Call to Worship** (9 *John*, 11 *Harry*) (adapted from Romans 15:4-13)

PASTOR: Welcome to this advent of worship, this time of preparation.

ALL: **We have come to worship in the name of Jesus the Christ.**

PASTOR: Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

ALL: **All are welcome in the name of the “root of Jesse”.**

PASTOR: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: **Let us rejoice and praise the Lord!**

**Opening Prayer** (9 *John*, 11 *Harry*)

PASTOR: Spirit of God, you embrace the poor, bring equity to the meek, and turn away all expressions of evil. Come into this congregation to enliven our worship, to immerse us in righteousness, to prompt our faithfulness. Rain on us our hope, and joy and peace, filling the whole earth with your glory.

ALL: **God, whose wondrous deeds cause hope and peace to abound, and whose steadfast love and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another through our Savior Jesus Christ, open our spirits to receive your gracious gifts so peace may flourish within and among us until your glory fills all the earth. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn #234** (red, vs. 1-4)

**“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.

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

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

PASTOR: God of hope, we give thanks for how you sustain us with air to breathe and water to drink. We celebrate that you have created a beautiful world full of plants, animals, rivers, oceans, woodlands, grasslands and mountains.

ALL: **Keep us mindful of all your gifts bestowed upon us.**

PASTOR: Forgive us for the times when we hurt others with careless words and actions. Give us courage to be voices crying out in the wilderness for those who are vulnerable and may be preyed upon by the injustice of bullying, poverty and violence.

ALL: **May we be your voice for the voiceless.**

PASTOR: We ask that you be near to those who are feeling hopeless, both in our community and other communities around the world. Sustain us with your hope, O God. 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 #211 (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: 9<sup>th</sup> cent. Latin; trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; *The Hymnal*, 1940; Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986

MUSIC: 15<sup>th</sup> 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

**God's Word Proclaimed** (9 *Joseph*, 11 *Harry*) Isaiah 11:1-10  
Romans 15:4-13

**Sermon** (9 *John*) "Accept One Another"  
(11 *Joseph*) "Know God, Know Peace"

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

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. 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, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. 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, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbles himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. 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.**

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

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.**

PASTOR: We, who have neglected the instruction of the Scriptures, are called to repent, for God's realm is at hand. How can we help to prepare the way if we are caught up in sin or fascinated by wickedness? Let us confess all that isolates us from the source of life.

ALL: **Awesome God, we have disregarded your Word, failing to inquire after your will for us. We have ignored the needy, defended our advantages and neglected our prayers. We have not appreciated or witnessed to your sustaining love. Instead, we destroy the resources of the earth with little regard for those who follow us. We value our prosperity more than the harmony you envision for your people. O God, we do not like ourselves this way. Deliver us, we pray.**

PASTOR: Remember your baptism! Feel again the refreshing waters that cleanse and make whole. Anticipate the baptism of the Spirit, the unquenchable fire that burns away the chaff. Receive these gifts and bear fruit worthy of repentance. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

### Sharing a Sign of Peace

### Sharing the Bread and Cup

#### Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self (*Joseph*) (Sharing is caring.)

PASTOR: Thanks and praise be to you Lord God, for showing your care by sharing with us your Son in whose meal we have participated.

ALL: **What a joy to be invited to this meal! What a delight to join our efforts to your purposes, amazing God! Strengthen us through the body and blood of your Son so that we may dare to oppose wickedness, stand up for the oppressed, work for harmony among all your children. May our offerings spread the knowledge of your ways across this land and even beyond. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.**

### Hymn #219 (red)

#### "What Child Is This"

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
 haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
 Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
 haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;  
 the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
 haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1865  
 MUSIC: 16<sup>th</sup> cent. English melody

**Commissioning and Blessing** (*John*)

PASTOR: Live each day with hope, welcoming one another. Rejoice that Christ welcomes you and claims you.

ALL: **Praise God, whose Holy Spirit empowers us. Praise God, who offers us joy and peace.**

PASTOR: Join with God who promises peace. Lend your resources to end conflicts.

ALL: **May righteousness flourish and peace abound. May God's glory fill the earth, through us.**

PASTOR: To that end go forth as a little child. Go forth seeking to see as God sees, with unending love for every creature. May it be so! Alleluia. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

**Postlude** (9)

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus/Angels We Have Heard on High” — arr. Jay Rouse

(11)

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord” — S. Schwartz

# Announcements

## Today, December 4 Second 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 Dwight Ganzel — Room 4

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

1:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Sunshine Room

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 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

5:30 p.m. Recital — Worship Center

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

## Thursday, December 8

12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates

## Friday, December 9

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

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

## Saturday, December 10

9:30 a.m. Honey Do Extension Club Christmas Brunch — Room 4

11:00 a.m. Citizen's Climate Lobby — Sunshine Room

## Next Sunday, December 11

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. 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. Worship — Worship Center

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

## 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

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

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

**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

**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



**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.