

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**June 25, 2023**

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

**9:00 a.m.**

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

**11:00 a.m. Service**

Greeter/Usher: Stacey Lienemann  
Lector: Rod Moore

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



**Aldersgate  
United Methodist Church**  
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**Joseph Rafique, Pastor**  
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*Worshippers are welcomed to use their own terminology for God.  
If you are considering membership, please contact our pastor, 402-489-1510.*



June 25, 2023

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

**Music for Centering Prayer** (9) "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" arr. Marianne Kim  
(11) "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" — melody from India

**Call to Worship** (9 *John*, 11 *Rod*)

LEADER: Come, nations of the earth, to bow before God. Distant galaxies proclaim the Creator of all things.

ALL: **We are humbled by the wonders of creation and amazed by God's mighty works.**

LEADER: This infinite God cares for each one of us; hears our cries and responds to our needs.

ALL: **In our days of trouble, we call on our God with confidence that God listens and answers.**

LEADER: Let us also call on God with our prayers of thanks and celebrate the wondrous things God provides.

ALL: **God cares for us, even when others reject us. We gather to glorify God's name.**

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

LEADER: Gracious God, in whose eye every sparrow has value, and in whose love even the hairs of our head are counted, lead us to the light, that we might proclaim your love from the housetops and put you first in our lives.

ALL: **May our discipleship reflect the witness of our teacher, Jesus Christ, that all nations may bow down before you and glorify your name. In the name of Jesus Christ, with gratitude we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn #73** (red)

**"O Worship the King"**

O worship the King, all glorious above,  
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;  
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,  
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is God's path on the wings of the storm.

3. The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;  
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,  
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

4. Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;  
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

WORDS: Robert Grant, 1833

MUSIC: Johann Michael Haydn; arr. by William Gardiner, 1815

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

PASTOR: God's grace has been poured out among us that we might die to sin. Yet, we are persistent in our disobedience, as if we thereby give to God more opportunities to be gracious. Let us bring to God all the brokenness of our lives, our alienation from our Creator, from persons we are called to love, and even from our own best selves.

ALL: **God, we are poor and needy in matters of the spirit. You have offered us newness of life, but we are fearful of its cost. Your gifts place us in debts so vast that we can never repay. We are not worthy of your love and cannot earn your forgiveness. How is it that when we accept your grace we sense a freedom we have never before enjoyed? O God, we want to be dead to sin and alive in you. Help us! Amen.**

PASTOR: As Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God, we are lifted up to walk in newness of life, accepted and forgiven. You can never be your old self again, for Christ has set you free. This is God's gift to you today.

ALL: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

PASTOR: God of sparrows and elephants, of earth and sky, of the great and the small, you have wondered with us. You value every question and hold us tenderly in your gaze, encouraging us to find our own answers. Reveal to us new insights even when some questions remain unanswered. (silence) Assure us, God of great and small, that we cannot know all you know. We do not see the world as you see it but we pray for love as great as yours. Listen to our prayers for. . . . (your intercessions might be offered here) Be our help and comfort, O God. Assure us not to be overwhelmed by fear when so much feels confusing and unresolved but help us understand your peace. You are great and do wonderful things, great and small. Uncover for us what it means to live in your love and peace. This we ask in Jesus' name who taught his disciples to pray 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.**

### VBS Moment (*Carol*)

God's Word Proclaimed (9 *John*, 11 *Rod*)

Romans 6:1-11  
Matthew 10:24-39

Sermon (*Joseph*)

"A Fork in the Path"

Offertory (9)  
(11)

"Living for Jesus" — arr. John Turner  
"Children of the Heavenly Father" — Swedish folk tune

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

PASTOR: We have received God's help and comfort. Let us express our thanks. We have been called into the community of disciples. Let us offer the witness of our sharing. We have been assured of our own worth and value. Let us dedicate our offering to building up others in God's love.

ALL: **For all the great and wondrous things you have done and continue to do for us, O God, we are grateful. You give us strength to go on when we are troubled and discouraged. You**

**grant newness of life as we share in Christ's resurrection. We want to pass on the good news through this offering and by the way we live each day. Lead us and guide us in your steadfast love, that we might channel your gift to all we meet. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.**

**Hymn #2146 (black)**

**"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"**

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

2. "Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,  
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

3. Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to him, from care he sets me free:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

WORDS: Civilla Martin  
MUSIC: Charles G. Gabriel

**Commissioning and Blessing (John)**

PASTOR: A committed disciple reading Jesus' following words tweets to one of his friends: "Do not fear those who kill the body. Whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. One's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me." His friend replies:

LECTOR: (Friend) *Not interested.*

PASTOR: The disciple tweets again. This time putting Jesus' words in his: "Isn't it amazing that the Creator God manifests such great care for creation and creatures — for you and me included? There is a beep and the friend's response comes:

LECTOR: (Friend) *I am downright dumb-founded hearing of God's personal care and concern.*

PASTOR: (to the congregation) Committed disciples of Jesus, go now to tell or tweet Jesus' teaching of God's love and care for all.

ALL: **We will not be shy or afraid of telling others of God's love.**

PASTOR: May God bless each one of us in our resolve to witness our faith. In the name of God the Creator, the Redeemer and the Comforter. Amen.

**Postlude (9)**  
(11)

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" — arr. Mark Hayes  
"Music for Children" — arr. T. Cornell

Today's liturgy has been partly taken from *Taught by Love* by Lavon Bayler © 1998

# Announcements

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## Today, June 25

### Descendants' Day

- 9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online  
<https://www.youtube.com@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463> or at your convenience at [www.aldersgatelinc.org](http://www.aldersgatelinc.org). You may also search YouTube for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School with the Earth Stewards “Geothermal” — Worship Center
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUlOZjYrQjlyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>  
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/u/kcFkfw3laD>



## Monday, June 26

### Barcode Day

- 12:30 p.m. Outreach Focus Group — Room 4  
7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

## Tuesday, June 27

### National Bingo Day

- 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregivers Education Group “Exploring Legal & Financial Tips” — Fellowship Hall.  
Learn about resources in Lincoln.
- 3:00 p.m. OLLI “My Backyard” — Aldersgate Gardens
- 7:00 p.m. Earth Stewards Ministry — zoom

## Wednesday, June 28

### John Wesley's Birthday

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

## Thursday, June 29

### National Camera Day

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

## Friday, June 30

### National Asteroid Day

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

## Next Sunday, July 2

### Freedom from Fear of Speaking Day

- 9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online  
11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center  
1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

## Wednesday, July 5

### National Graham Cracker Day

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Punching the Air* by Ibi Boboi & Yusef Salaam — zoom

## Sunday, July 9

### Fashion Day

- 10:00 a.m. Justice in Action — Worship Center  
10:15 a.m. One-Shot Choir Practice — Room 9

## Monday, July 10

### Pick Blueberries Day

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith with Frankey Ostlund — Room 4

- Friday, July 14**                      **National Tape Measure Day**  
 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and enjoy the fellowship of playing cards (10-point Pitch)
- Saturday, July 15**                      **National Give Something Away Day**  
 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4. Catered by Hy-Vee
- Tuesday, July 18**                      **World Listening Day**  
 7:00 p.m. Book Club *Punching the Air* by Ibi Boboi & Yusef Salaam — Room 4
- Wednesday, July 19**                      **National Hot Dog Day**  
 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4.
- Thursday, July 20**                      **National Lollipop Day**  
 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom. Sharing prayer concerns.
- Tuesday, July 25**                      **National Hire a Veteran Day**  
 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregivers Education Group "Exploring Senior Centers" — Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — zoom

## It Is Enough

Lauren Hodgson

With God, we are all enough: disciple, teacher, worker, boss.  
 None above the other; no one above another, in God's sight.  
 So have no fear. The truth is complex, but it is real.  
 Nothing is covered up. It will all, in its time, be uncovered.  
 Have no fear and proclaim it from the housetops. Let it be heard.  
     Yell! Sound it out! Shout!  
     And have no fear.  
 Because in the arms of the Beloved, you are cherished.  
 You are known so deeply that not a head on your hair can escape the depths of this love.  
     Each hair counted. Each hair matters.  
     Just as you matter.  
     In knowing so fully, we are known.  
     In loving so wholly, we are loved.  
     In denying, we are denied.  
     And in acknowledging, we are acknowledged.  
 We are not called to choose the simple path: no one said this would be an easy journey.  
     Things won't make sense.  
 You will look for peace and find nothing but a mess.  
 You will encounter violence, and through it, discover a world of love and compassion.  
     The road is rocky. It feels lonely.  
     There will be doubt.  
     But still... Keep going.  
     Keep walking that road of uncertainty.  
     Even when you feel alone, you are not.  
 Even when the thorns reach at your flesh, and the branches capture you with their claws,  
     keep going.  
     Even then, keep going. Because it is enough.  
     Because you are enough.  
     Enough