

Aldersgate

United Methodist Church



9:00 a.m.

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

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Sheila Kellenbarger
Lector: Jan Malone

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

July 9, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Aldersgate
United Methodist Church
8320 South Street
Lincoln, NE 68506-6540
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402-489-1510 (church office)
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Joseph Rafique, Pastor
402-499-7101 (cell)
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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.*



July 9, 2023

Greeting and Announcements (9 John, 11 Joseph)

Hymn #98 (red)

“To God Be the Glory”

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875

MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1875

Call to Worship (9 Joseph, 11 Jan)

LEADER: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God.
Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

ALL: **God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks..**

LEADER: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

ALL: **The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.**

Opening Prayer (9 Joseph, 11 Jan)

LEADER: We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness.

ALL: **We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. This we ask in the name of Jesus our peace. Amen.**

Prayer of Confessional Hymn #348 (red) “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Come home, come home; ye who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?

Come home, come home; ye who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

3. Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me.

Come home, come home; ye who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

4. O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.

Come home, come home; ye who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

WORDS and MUSIC: Will L. Thompson, 1880

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

PASTOR: O God, we are weary. We are weary with words. We are weary with worry. We are weary for this world. We pray for your rest and peace for all our weariness. Listen, O God, for words we struggle to add to your story. What prayer needs do you lift up? (pause)

O God, we carry heavy burdens. We are burdened by injustice. We are burdened by inequality. We are burdened by choice. We struggle with so many choices — choices about the beginnings or endings of commitments, choices that take us beyond what we know, choices that are so abundant and filled with possibility and wonder, choices about how to carry the heavy burden of sharing in your story with love and grace.

ALL: **O Wisdom Divine, help us to make wise choices.**

PASTOR: O Great Storyteller, we thirst for your creativity in our journey. We seek answers to every prayer in the stories we are trying to write with you — for healing or comfort, strength in trying times and joy in shared times, and wisdom and love in all things. Help us find your creativity again and again and find peace in your presence. This we ask in the name of Jesus 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.**

Hymn #2158 (black, 9)

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

3. When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

WORDS and MUSIC: Anon.

Special Music (11)

“Come to Me, You Weary” — *Aldersgate One Shot Choir*

God's Word Proclaimed (11 Jan & Joseph)

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 and Romans 7:15-25a

JOHN (reading Matthew): ‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”’

JOSEPH (reading Romans): I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

JOHN: For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!”

JOSEPH: Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good.

JOHN: Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’ At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

JOSEPH: But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.

JOHN: Wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.

JOSEPH: For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

JOHN: All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

JOSEPH: Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

JOHN: ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

JOSEPH: Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Sermon (Joseph)

“When You Are Weary, Take the Yoke of Christ”

Offertory (Joseph)

PASTOR: God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let's consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

(9) “The Gifts We Bring” — arr. David Paxton

(11) “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” — arr. R.J. Hughes

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self (Joseph)

PASTOR: With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of these resources.

ALL: **May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.**

Hymn #400 (red)

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758

MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

Commissioning and Blessing (John)

PASTOR: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

ALL: **We learn from the youngest in our midst.
Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.**

PASTOR: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy.
It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

ALL: **We will find rest and renewal through Christ.
We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.**

PASTOR: Go with the compassion of God to choose love and rest for all who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens. God with the blessing of God, who rests in your every hope. May the peace of Christ be with you all now and always.

ALL: **And also with you.**

**Postlude (9)
(11)**

“Give Thanks” — arr. Mark Hayes

“Down to the River to Pray” — arr. M. McDonald

Parts of today's liturgy have been taken from *Taught by Love* by Lavon Bayler © 1998

Announcements

Today, July 9

Fashion Day

9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
<https://www.youtube.com@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463> or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org. You may also search YouTube for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

10:00 a.m. Justice in Action — Worship Center

10:15 a.m. One-Shot Choir Practice — Room 9

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/kcFkfw3laD>



Monday, July 10

Pick Blueberries Day

11:30 a.m. Outreach Focus Group — Sunshine Room

1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith with Frankey Ostlund “Bridges to Hope” — Room 4

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVDkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09>

Meeting ID: 326 776 8816

Passcode: 4024891510



Tuesday, July 11

Cow Appreciation Day

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee — Room 4

Wednesday, July 12

Simplicity Day

2:00 p.m. Afternoon Social — Christ U.M. Church, 4530 ‘A’ St. All women are invited.

Thursday, July 13

National French Fry Day

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

Friday, July 14

National Tape Measure Day

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

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 with Gary Hosek — Room 4. Catered by Hy-Vee

Next Sunday, July 16

National Fresh Spinach Day

9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Next Monday, July 17

National Tattoo Day

7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

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
- Sunday, July 30** **Paperback Book Day**
9 & 11 a.m. Hymn Sing (musician’s choice) — Worship Center
12:15 p.m. Potluck — Sunshine Room
- Tuesday, August 1** **Play Ball Day**
11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th St. Seniors fellowship over lunch.
- Wednesday, August 2** **National Coloring Book Day**
1:30 p.m. Book Club *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt — zoom

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

- 10** Jeanne Nielsen
- 14** Anne Merchant

Nadyne Bauer
Dick Easley
Bob Gloe
Keller Hustad
Dallas Huston

David Huston is in rehab, recovering from his 2nd knee surgery
The family of Douglas Maier, Ruth Maier’s son, who died 7/6/23
Ruth Maier went to the E.R. June 13 and will likely stay at Bryan East until June 16.

Iva Maxey, Reba Wysocki’s sister, who is undergoing dialysis treatments
Jennifer Miles, Phyllis Nelson’s niece

Lynda Nordyke

Allen Ostlund, Frankey & Gordon’s son who has metastatic prostate cancer

AJ & Chandra Pfenning, Pat Marshall's granddaughter

Isaiah Pierce, Karen Pierce’s grandson who was born 12/13/22 with heart issues

Alex Ronne, Pat Ruth’s cousin, a 5-year-old girl living in Colorado diagnosed with MLD, a rare, incurable, genetic disease

Freeman Sandquist and his family as he is deployed to Africa.

Andrew Smith left on his deployment 2/5/23

Zach Steward

Corrie Stohlman taking chemo for Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma

Roxanne & Richard Swyers

“May the Lord go before Ross Teske and prepare the way for his missionary work in Talavera de la Reina, Spain.”

Jacob

John

People in Ukraine, Turkey and Syria