



# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

*THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY*

Sunday, December 14, 2025

**Rev. Jennifer Kerby**

2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803  
Phone: (302) 478-2575 Fax: (302) 478-1828  
[www.aldersgatede.org](http://www.aldersgatede.org)



***Aldersgate is a significant place where disciples are made!***

*With God's help and through prayer we GATHER as God's people,  
GROW in faith and love, and GO into the world as Jesus' disciples.*

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## 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Joy of the Lord* Journey Band

**\*WORSHIP SONG** *Christmas Day* Journey Band

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** The Candle of Joy Mark and MJ Wichmann

Let us pray together: **God of Mary, mother of Jesus, you gave her a song of praise. Turn our world upside down that we might see it as you do, with love and justice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*SCRIPTURE LESSON** **Luke 1:46b-55 NRSVue** Heather Burket

**CHILDREN'S TIME** Rev. Jennifer Kerby

Junior Choir Dismissal - All Children 2nd grade-5th grade welcome

**MESSAGE** The Joy of Jesus Rev. Jennifer Kerby

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Rev. Jennifer Kerby

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING SONG** *What a Beautiful Name* Journey Band

**\*CLOSING SONG** *Joy to the World(Unspeakable Joy)* Journey Band

**\*BENEDICTION** Rev. Jennifer Kerby

GIVING - TEXT **the word GIVE** TO (302)500-4533 or SCAN QR Code



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### PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Advent Candle: Mark and MJ Wichmann  
Altar Duty: Kathy Daum and Beverly Barker  
AV Tech: Ryan McKeever  
Children's Message: Rev. Jennifer Kerby  
Director of Music: Anastasiia Sidorova

Greeters: Julie DeRosa and Cheryl Beeson  
Head Usher: Steve Davis  
Journey Band  
Liturgist: Heather Burket

## 11:00 AM Traditional Worship

### GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

#### PRELUDE

Mark Sobol

**\*SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP, 376**     *Dona Nobis Pacem*

DONA NOBIS PACEM

#### **\*WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Brian Merritt

L: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!

P: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

L: The Almighty has done great things for us.

All: Come Lord Jesus, come! Blessed are those who hear and obey the word of the Lord.

#### **\*HYMN, 216**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN ROS

#### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** The Candle of Joy

Troy and Noah Sheaffer

Let us pray together: **God of Mary, mother of Jesus, you gave her a song of praise. Turn our world upside down that we might see it as you do, with love and justice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### PROCLAMATION OF THE LIVING WORD

#### ANTHEM

*Child of God (Rock Mary Rock)*

Chancel Choir

#### **\*SCRIPTURE READING**

**Isaiah 35:1-10 NRSVue**

Brian Merritt

#### **\*GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 1:46b-55 NRSVue**

Brian Merritt

#### SERMON

The Joy of Jesus

Rev. Jennifer Kerby

#### **HYMN OF REFLECTION, 221**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

CRANHAM

### RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

#### PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Rev. Jennifer Kerby

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### **\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**OFFERING**     GIVING - TEXT the word GIVE TO (302)500-4533 or SCAN QR Code



#### OFFERTORY

Mark Sobol

**\*DOXOLOGY, 95**     *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD 100th

## THE HOLY CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brian Merritt

**\*CLOSING HYMN, 230**      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

**\*BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL**

Rev. Jennifer Kerby

**POSTLUDE**      *Will We Know Him?*

Chancel Choir

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### PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Advent Candle: Troy and Noah Sheaffer  
Altar Duty: Kathy Daum and Beverly Barker  
AV Tech: Ryan McKeever  
Chancel Choir  
Director of Music: Anastasiia Sidorova

Greeters: Wendy Lindsey and Gail Lodge  
Head Usher: Steve Davis  
Liturgist: Brian Merritt  
Organist: Mark Sobol



# VIVALDI: GLORIA

**December 14, 2:00 PM**

Featuring Chancel Choir, Aldersgate Brass, Gateway  
Ringers, Junior Choir, Vocal Impact, Cherub Choir,  
Journey Band, and Guest Musicians

**\*Doors will open at 1:30**

2313 Concord Pike  
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### REMINDERS...

- **Nursery and Childcare** is available in Rooms 132 & 137.
- **There is an elevator** located near the Fairfax Shopping Center doors.
- **Please refrain** from eating or drinking in the Sanctuary.
- **Altar Flowers:** contact Beverly Barker at (302) 584-4509 or e-mail at [macbhal@aol.com](mailto:macbhal@aol.com); **checks for contributions may be put in the Treasurer's mailbox in The HUB. Please include envelope number.**
- **Prayer List, Visitation, and Persons to Encourage list:** [prayerlist@aldersgatede.org](mailto:prayerlist@aldersgatede.org)
- **Messenger Articles & Photos:** E-mail [messenger@aldersgatede.org](mailto:messenger@aldersgatede.org).
- **Bulletin Announcements are due Tuesdays by 5:00 PM.** E-mail to [kyle.smith@aldersgatede.org](mailto:kyle.smith@aldersgatede.org)
- **Church Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 9 AM-4 PM and Fridays 9 AM-12 PM.
- **Rev. Kerby's Office Hours:** Monday, Wednesday-Thursday 9 AM-2 PM and Friday 9 AM-12 PM.
- **The Hughes Chapel** is open Monday-Friday during office hours.

### OUR CARING MINISTRY

**And this is the boldness we have in Him,  
that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)**

**The Peace Candle** on the altar reminds us to pray for those serving our country: Weston Stigler (grandson to Martha and Willis Weldin); Benjamin Lovett (Julia Shay's brother); Jacob Flenner (grandson of Janet Flenner), Dallas Apotheker (son of Pastor Jennifer and Brent Apotheker); Mike May (Betty Lu & Gary Ireland's nephew), Eric Emerson (son in-law of Rick & Kathleen Brady).

*If there is a military service member in your family for whom you would like the church to pray,  
please submit their name with your name to Kyle Smith at [kyle.smith@aldersgatede.org](mailto:kyle.smith@aldersgatede.org).*

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Jean Pyle on her birthday from her daughters, Jocelyn McCord and Valerie Voge, and their families.

Congratulations to Tom and Barbara Lugg who celebrate 58 years of marriage on December 16.

We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Lois Schafer who passed away on December 3.

### Our Weekly Prayer List

#### Sympathy

Family & Friends of Paul Aldrich

Family & Friends of Jackie Daley (Friend of Becky & James Wang)

Family & Friends of Clayton Foster (Father of Karen Allaway)

Family & Friends of Rev. James T. Kirk, Jr. (Pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Church)

Family & Friends of Rev. Metty Mesick on the death of her grandmother

#### Members & Friends

Aldersgate Lay Leadership & Staff Members

Betty Aldrich & Family

Kent, Karen, and Connor Allaway

Rev. Anthony Arrington

Ralph & Emily Bankert

Bill & Jenny Berg

Don Blythe

### Members & Friends

Steve Cake (Ron Nelson's Brother-in-Law)  
Avery Cheromiah  
Catherine & Abigail Frey (Granddaughter of Ann Roberts)  
Casey Gryszkiewicz (Nancy Eder's nephew)  
Chris Harvey  
Karin Ingman  
Betty Lu & Gary Ireland  
Owen Lugar  
Mike Luternau  
Anna Maansson  
George McKeown  
Beverly Melcher  
Megan S. (Friend of Martha Weldin)  
Doris Springer  
Jerry Stein (Sam Stein's father)  
Judy Vacca (Christine Lassiter's mother)



### Prayer Points

- 1) A successful Cookie Walk and Christmas Concert that blesses our community
- 2) Watch over and protect those searching for shelter in freezing temperatures
- 3) Blue Christmas service will provide comfort to those experiencing loss of any kind

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**This week, with the World Council of Churches, we pray for God's blessings on the nations of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.**

**Aldersgate Annual Christmas Concert** - Our annual Christmas Concert takes place TODAY, December 14 at 2 PM, featuring music from our Chancel Choir, Aldersgate Brass, Gateway Ringers, Junior Choir, Vocal Impact, Cherub Choir, and Journey Band. Joining us are guest musicians Susan Ryan and a string quartet of Curtis Institute of Music students. Make sure to take advantage of inviting someone to this musical event and wonderful reception to follow. **Doors open at 1:30 PM.**

**Advent is a great time to help out with Family Promise.** We are joining Grace Lutheran to provide hospitality to up to eight temporarily homeless families staying in cottages on the FP campus on Milltown Road next week. We're looking for dinner hosts on Thursday 12/18. Thank you to those that have already signed up for Tuesday and Wednesday. Family Promise allows us to fulfill our call to welcome the stranger and feed the hungry. As a dinner host, you will prepare food in advance, arrive at about 5:30 pm to set up the dining room, welcome the families, and have dinner together around 6:00 PM. If your church small group or friends outside of Aldersgate are looking for a service project, check us out! If you would like to serve, or have questions about how you can contribute, please reach out to Brian Merritt at [BJMerritt@outlook.com](mailto:BJMerritt@outlook.com).

**Aldersgate Blue Christmas Worship Service** - Join us on Wednesday, December 17 at 5:30 PM for a service of quiet reflection and candlelight in our Auditorium. Blue Christmas provides a space for healing and hope for those dealing with the death of loved ones, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with job loss, living with illness, or navigating concerns surrounding national and world events. All are welcome to attend - whether you are experiencing grief and loss or if you feel called to be present to worship with others who are in need of support from this church community. A light meal of homemade soup and bread will be served after worship. Please email Cheryl Merritt at [cheryl.merritt@aldersgatede.org](mailto:cheryl.merritt@aldersgatede.org) or call the church office for questions, to RSVP, or if you need transportation.

**Christmas Eve Worship** – We will have 2 worship services on Christmas Eve. At 4 PM there will be our Family Service with children's nativity and 9 PM will be our Traditional service with communion. Both services will end with Silent Night by candlelight.

**Christmas Joy** - "On behalf of Love Does, we are extremely grateful for the congregation's very generous donations towards Christmas Joy. We raised over \$1500 in gift cards, and nearly 20 boxes worth of toys, clothing, blankets, and other items of need. Both Urban Promise and Neighborhood House have expressed their joy and gratitude towards our entire congregation, and we are thrilled this year was another great success. Thank you!"

**Advent Sensory Stations** - Experience the wonder of Advent through your senses! During the Advent season, the Narthex and the auditorium will feature interactive sensory stations designed to help all ages engage more deeply with the themes of Faith, Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Each week offers an immersive, hands-on activity as we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. Take a few quiet moments before or after worship to explore, pray, and reflect.

**Notice of Election** – In accordance with the laws of Delaware, the election for our 2028 class of Board of Trustees will be held on Sunday, December 21, 2025. All members present will be eligible to vote. Nominees are Henry Daum, Taber Smith, Brett Landis, and Anne Murray. Please plan to attend and vote.

**Church Office Christmas Schedule**- The church office will be closed Wednesday, Dec 24, through Friday, January 2. You may utilize our secure mailbox, next to the door on the Fairfax side of the building, while the office is closed. We will be checking the phones, mail, and our secured mailbox throughout the week. The deadline for all year-end paperwork is Monday, December 29. Please reach out to the office with any questions, prior to Friday, December 19.

**The New Year is coming**- now is a good time for all group and activity leaders to check your 2026 room reservations with Kevin Botbyl and make sure they are on the calendar! Send Kevin Botbyl an email, [kevin.botbyl@aldersgatede.org](mailto:kevin.botbyl@aldersgatede.org).

**United Women in Faith invites you to join us for the annual Epiphany Meeting and Program** Sunday January 11th at 12:15 pm in the auditorium. Music will be provided by Dane Suarez, tenor vocalist. Lunch provided. All are welcome!

**The 2026 Disciplines Daily Devotional Books** are in. We have a limited number of books for \$15. We have 2 left. Please contact the office if you would like one.



## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 14, 2025**

9:00a Contemporary Journey Service, Auditorium  
10:00 Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary  
12:00p Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room  
**2:00 Christmas Concert, Sanctuary \*Doors will open at 1:30 PM**

### **Monday, December 15, 2025**

6:30p Boy Scouts Troop #67

### **Tuesday, December 16, 2025**

### **Wednesday, December 17, 2025**

12:00p Staff Meeting, 237

### **Wednesday, December 17, 2025 cont.**

5:30p Blue Christmas Service, Auditorium  
5:30 Impact, SMC \*special time  
7:00 Chancel Choir, Choir Room  
7:00 Cub Scouts Pack #67; RR, FH

### **Thursday, December 18, 2025**

10:00a Journey Bible Study, 237  
6:00p Girl Scouts Troop #129  
7:00 Aldersgate Brass, Music Center

### **Friday, December 19, 2025**

12:30p HOPP Food Distribution, Parking Lot

### **Saturday, December 20, 2025**

## **Pastor's Cold Weather Collection**

**We are requesting donations of gently used blankets, comforters, sleeping bags, coats, scarves, hats, mittens/gloves, and warm weather socks.**

Items can be left in the box by the tree  
at the top of the steps.

All articles will be delivered to the Christina Park  
camp downtown and other ministries assisting  
those without adequate shelter.

Checks and gift cards can be left in the black box  
next to the Hub with the notation "Cold."  
We will purchase supplies with your gifts.

**Collection will run December 15 – January 15**

**We're working in partnership with Wilmington's Food Not Bombs.**

