

## Aldersgate UMC Worship: *Home Edition* – July 5

**Call to Worship:** Make a list of 4-7 things you are thankful to God for in your life. Express your gratitude to Him and ask Him to prepare your heart for worship.

**Worship Song:** “*Change My Heart Oh God*” by Maranatha Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IISmG-eJTU>

**Prayer of Illumination:** Lord, open my ears, my eyes, my mind, and my heart to you Word. Guide me in your truth and teach me your ways. Your servant is listening. I pray this in Jesus name, Amen.

**Scripture:** Philippians 1:11

(**Note:** You can download the sermon outline at the bottom of this email)

**Sermon:** “*Cultivating Character in a World of Compromise*”

<https://youtu.be/XsJ1J2lzXmY>

**Special Music:** Special Music: “*Freedom Hymn*” by Austin French

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-VfFTVu-6E>

**Prayer:** Lord, this weekend, we celebrate our independence as a nation. Thank you for our Founding Fathers who envisioned a government where people could live free. Thank you for our soldiers who seek to protect that freedom. I pray for vigilance to live out the belief that all people are truly created equal. I thank you Lord for being our ultimate Founding Father of life, and for being our ultimate Provider of freedom. Bless the Church to be the light of the world as we seek to cultivate Christ-like character. I pray this in Jesus name, amen.

**Offering:** Mail in your tithes & offerings to Aldersgate UMC, 5767 Sellger Dr. Norfolk, VA. 23502. Or give online at our website at AldersgateNorfolk.org

**Closing Song:** “*Give Thanks*” Worship leader: Cindy Crosby

[https://youtu.be/u1qCHJEo\\_pE](https://youtu.be/u1qCHJEo_pE)

**Blessing:** Lift up your face, and receive this blessing. Open yourself to the life-giving fruit that God desires for you. Roll up your sleeves and join him in cultivating blessing in your

life. And be a witness to the world of his love. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

### ***“Cultivating Character in a World of Compromise”***

*(Philippians 1:11) May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.*

*(1 John 3:2-3) We are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears.*

*But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.*

### **Cultivating Character in a World of Compromise**

#### **1. Plow the Soil – Soften your heart**

*(Matthew 13:15) For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes—so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.*

#### **2. Plant the Seed – Receive God’s Word**

*(Psalm 119:2-3) Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths.*

#### **3. Beat the Heat – Embrace trials as opportunities**

*(Romans 5:3-4) We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*

#### **4. Share the Work – Seek Support (Small Group)**

*(Proverbs 12:26) The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.*