



# First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

## Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

**Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz**, Pastor

**Kelly Tyrrell**, Church Administrator

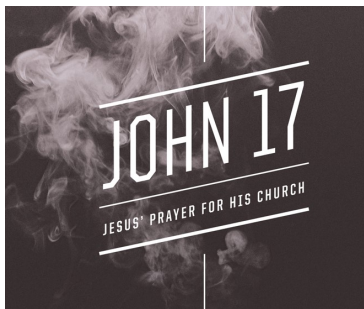
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**Week of May 24, 2020**



We will NOT be having Worship Service Sunday at the Church.

In the spirit of community and fellowship, we ask that you follow along with this printed service. Find a comfortable place to be, relax your body, and calm your mind. Try to come into a prayerful mindset. As you pray the community prayer, remember, your fellow congregants at First Christian will be praying this along with you. Feel free to keep this prayer to pray all

### Community Prayer

God of all glory, we pray our thanksgiving to you for never leaving our side. It has become easy to feel alone these last weeks, but we can remember that your Son Jesus prayed for us even before we were alive. Help us to remember your loving presence when we are overcome with anxiety, uncertainty, and fear. Give us encouragement to give thanks each morning, enjoy each day, and be a blessing to each person we meet. In this way, we can continue to glorify your Holy name. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Check out our weekly video at [www.fcclincoln.org](http://www.fcclincoln.org), First Christian's Facebook page, or search for First Christian Church, Lincoln, Nebraska on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVeJAW8Dmqv8Jmk5rzj43g>

### Worship Playlist

Unfortunately, one piece of the worship service that we cannot replicate on paper is our wonderful music ministry. Below are links to the songs for this week's worship and reflection. If you have access to the internet, you can type in the links below - OR - you can type the name of each song into YouTube's search engine to enjoy the music this week.

#### Crown Him with Many Crowns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YJnVN6wdvI>

#### Greatly to be Praised

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AyHtEAdy58>

*Performed by Steve Fee*

Even though the Church building is closed for worship, our operation costs still continue. Please continue your regular giving to the church in addition to your faith giving. The FCC office is accepting checks at 430 S. 16th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. We can also mail you a debit authorization form to do automatic withdrawals. Finally, there is a "GIVE" button on the top right-hand side of the [fcclincoln.org](http://fcclincoln.org) website to make an online donation via PayPal.

# Scripture

## *John 17:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have

kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

# Reflection

## “Meditation for the 7th Week in Easter”

The author of our Gospel lesson this week tells us that Jesus looked up and offered this prayer. It is a long prayer and we only have a portion of it in our lesson from John. This prayer comes just before Jesus was arrested, faced his trial, and was executed on the cross. We cannot know for sure, but I suspect Jesus knew something big was about to happen. Life as they had known it was about to change forever. Jesus prayed for himself, for those who followed him, and for all those who would come later. Jesus did not pray that things would remain the same. Jesus did not pray for safety and security.

One word that arises throughout this passage is “glory.” It appears in a variety of forms. Jesus prayed “glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you.” The root word for glory in Greek is the foundation of English words like “doxology.” The Greek carries several meanings; to think, suppose, or have an opinion. More commonly, particularly in religious parlance, it means to praise, extol, magnify, or celebrate. It can also mean to honor, hold in honor, make glorious, adorn with luster, clothe with splendor, to impart glory to something, render it excellent, or make it renowned. To cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged. Jesus prayed that all these things would be realized. As Jesus reflected God’s glory, Jesus would also be glorified in the process.

Another key word in this passage is “to make manifest.” In verse 6, Jesus said, “I have manifested your name” (NASB) or “I have made known your name.” (NRSV). The Greek here can mean to make manifest, visible or known, that which has been hidden or unknown. This can be done by words, deeds, or in any other way. So often we think of this in

terms of spoken or written testimony. However, Jesus lifted up the idea that he made God visible and known by his life and ministry. In this prayer, Jesus expressed the hope that all his followers will not only see God in him but would also “manifest” God to others.

In these days of COVID-19 it is tempting to believe that we need not worry about “manifesting” God’s glory. How can we make God’s glory a reality while we are stuck at home and physically distancing? Although we are not currently gathering for public worship, Jesus still calls us to manifest the glory of God. As a community, we are called to continue physical distancing and observe the health directives issued for our safety. We do this not only for ourselves, but perhaps more importantly, we do it for the vulnerable in our midst. By doing so, we manifest the glory and splendor of God who cares for everyone, especially the least of these. As we begin making plans to safely come together in worship, we do so with the hope of manifesting God’s glory. In this way, we also live out Jesus’ prayer for unity; the unity of Jesus and God, the unity we share with Christ, and the unity of being part of the family of God all around the world.

Living out Jesus’ prayer for us is not easy, but, it is possible. Jesus modeled this for us in his earthly existence. Jesus empowers us to live out this prayer by coming beside us. Sometimes our willingness to hold back and show restraint manifests God’s glory in far more powerful ways. May we have the courage to manifest God’s glory throughout these uncertain days and throughout our lives.

**AMEN**

# Prayers & Praises

## May 24, 2020

### In Our Church Family:

- William Deterding
- Betty Ferguson
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- Our sympathy to the family and friends of Ray Calkins at his recent passing

### Relatives:

- Friends and Family of *Vic Burgess*
- Friends and Family of *Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Herb, *prayers for health and wellness, cousin of Tom Mason*
- Stephanie, *prayers for upcoming surgery on a frontal lobe tumor, cousin of Vince Ortega*

### Friends:

- Pam Larsen, *continuing to fight cancer, friend of Marcia Foster*
- Peggy Westburg, *prayers during chemotherapy, friend of Lindsay Swanson*
- Karen, *during cancer treatments, co-worker of Rhonda Ball*
- Dianna Clark, *prayers for health concerns and upcoming tests*
- Prayers for a co-worker, *who was paralyzed in an accident, from Carla Pinneo*
- Dennis, *battling cancer, friend of the Effle Family*
- Will Barrett, *for healing with gut issues, high-school aged neighbor of the Blossers*
- Neici Rodriguez, *prayers for mental health and employment*

### Our Timothys:

- Bruce Frogge *at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, *Creative Arts Ministry in Lincoln, NE*

### In the Nebraska Region:

- Iglesia Discipulos and Rev. Daniel Zapata

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Kahala Cannon serving in eSwatini

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



# Spiritual Practice

## Developing Your Own Prayer of the Heart

It is possible to discover your own prayer of the heart by using the following process based on the work of Episcopal author Ron DelBene.

1. **Relax.** Find a posture that allows you to be relaxed and alert. It helps to sit fairly straight. Close your eyes and breathe deeply several times. Consciously release any muscle tension you become aware of. Breathe in peace, breathe out tension.

2. **Relax your mind.** If particular thoughts keep returning, gather them up and give them to God to hold for you during this time. You can take them back later if you want.

3. **Visualize Jesus.** Imagine that Jesus is sitting next to you or standing in front of you. He looks into your eyes and calls you by name, asking you, "What do you want me to do for you?" Hear his question and let your response surface from deep within. If more than one thing comes to mind, identify the root desire beneath all the others, express it in a short phrase. Examples: Heal me. Give me strength. Grant me peace. Love me. Teach me your truth.

4. **Find your name for God.** How do you address God? What is your name for the Divine? Call to mind the name, title, or word you find most meaningful when you speak to God in prayer. Examples: Jesus, Holy One, Living Spirit, Eternal God, Teacher, Father, Mother, Lord, Holy Mystery.

5. **Bring together your name for God and your desire.** Combine the name you use to address God with the phrase that expresses what it is that you want Jesus to do for you. This should become a single short phrase that flows easily in your mind. Examples: Holy One, grant me peace. Jesus, heal me. Eternal God, give me strength. Holy Mystery, teach me your truth.

6. **Pray the phrase.** Sit quietly and repeat the phrase gently in your mind for the next few minutes.

7. **Rest into silence.** Let your phrase fade into silence. Rest in the silence, letting the Spirit guide you into the enfolding love of God.

### For further reading:

DelBene, Ron. *The Breath of Life: A Simple Way to Pray*. Nashville: The Upper Room, 1992.