



# 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

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**Week of June 28, 2020**



Public Worship WILL be held at 10:30 am Sunday morning. If you are not quite ready to join us for public worship, 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 week.

### Community Prayer

O Holy God, welcome us into your presence. We pray to you today in hope that you are hearing the prophets among us. We pray that you are seeing the strength and unity of people speaking up and fighting against the injustices that have pervaded our world. We look at our communities, God, and we know we can do better. We know that as Christians, we can do more to make things on earth as they are in heaven. Encourage us with your Spirit to keep steadfast through conflicts, that we may represent your will, taught to us by your Son 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.

#### Here I Am Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcXOkht8w7c>

*Performed by Eric Tom*

#### My Reward

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpuOD6rdQC4>

*Performed by Paul Baloche*

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Even if you are worshipping from home, 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.  
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# Scripture Readings

## *Psalms 13*

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

<sup>1</sup> How long, O LORD? Will you forget me for ever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

<sup>2</sup> How long must I bear pain in my soul,

and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

<sup>3</sup> Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

<sup>4</sup> and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed';

my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

<sup>5</sup> But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

<sup>6</sup> I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

## *Matthew 10:40-42*

<sup>40</sup> 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

# Reflection

## “Meditation for 4th Sunday after Pentecost”

### “Welcoming All”

The Gospel lesson for this week presents some unique challenges for us today. As we continue to deal with Pandemic and Protest, we are invited to ponder the importance of “welcome.” When so many things, including churches, are just beginning to reopen, we may find ourselves wondering, “what does it mean to be welcoming?” As the reopening team prepared for our first service of public worship on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, we wondered “what do we need to do to provide a safe and welcoming place for worship?” We considered all the information available to us from the Region, the National Church, the state, and our city. We reviewed information and guidelines from all these sources, we insured that things were cleaned, we stocked up on hand-sanitizer and masks, and we prepared and posted signs. Everything we did was with the intent of creating a safe and welcoming place for worship. Throughout this process we have provided weekly worship bulletins and videos. Our goal has always been to invite people into a time and space for worship.

But, what happens when we cannot welcome people in the ways to which we are accustomed? We cannot give them a brisk handshake or warm hug. I keep thinking about drawing a smile on my mask to convey my sense of joy as I encounter people, something that seems hidden by the all-important face mask. Part of creating a place of welcome has been stressing the protection of the most vulnerable in our midst. To do so has often seemed counter-intuitive; we still invite many to stay away and join us in other ways. We have been stretched to consider new ways to express our sense of welcome; some have worked and others have not worked as well. Perhaps it is in embracing this very struggle that we find that place of true welcome. Taking precautions and maintaining physical dis-

tance have been ways to keep one another safe. Our willingness to do things differently for the sake of others may be the most welcoming thing we can do. It is in such challenging times that we are invited to consider the depth of true welcome.

These short verses also invite us to consider what it means to welcome the prophet and the righteous person. As protests and cries for change continue to ring out, we are invited to welcome the prophets among us. This is not easy or comfortable. To truly welcome the prophet means hearing things we may not want to hear. We have to confront the injustice and the lack of welcome that has been a part of our nation and often our Church. On a personal level, particularly here at FCC, we are welcoming. When we say “all are welcome” we mean it and embody it. However, we have to admit that this is not always true, particularly on cultural and societal levels. I believe the first step towards true welcome comes in our willingness to listen and learn. Welcome comes in our willingness to acknowledge and embrace the experiences of others, particularly experiences in which people have not felt welcome.

Perhaps one way we can embrace the challenge of welcome in our world today is to ponder those times in which we have felt truly welcomed. When have we felt genuinely heard and valued? As we ponder this question may we have the courage to embrace all those who come across our path. As we learn to truly welcome one another, we become more aware of all the ways in which we welcome God. May we all have the courage to welcome others and, in so doing, remember that Christ is already in our midst.

**AMEN**

# Prayers & Praises

## June 28, 2020

# Spiritual Practice

## Everyday Blessings

### In Our Church Family:

- William Deterding
- Betty Ferguson
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- Scott Dietrick
- Marj Snodgrass
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek

### Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Friends and Family of Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Rick Pickel, *going back in for treatments, son 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*
- Our sympathy to Betty Gish, *on the passing of her brother Monsignor James Dawson*
- Our sympathy to Catrina Kotas, *on the passing of her sister Christine Matousik*

### 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*

### Our Timothy's:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- Minden FCC and Pastor Joe Tira

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Carlos Sediles-Real serving in Mexico

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

[www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



Perhaps the most distinctive feature of Celtic Christianity is its affinity with nature. The Celts enthusiastically affirmed the psalmist's declaration, "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims [God's] handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). The Celts believed that all creation is alive with God's presence. Because God's Spirit dwells in all living things, everything is inherently good; therefore all creation is to be treated sacramentally.

A consequence of believing all creation is alive with God's presence was that everything could be a window to God. Celts found nature an "icon." They could "see into" it and see God. Every moment, every location could become a time and place for encountering God.

Brad Kent, "Beneath the Celtic Cross of Jesus"  
*Presbyterians Today*, Jan/Feb 2002

The Celts were not the only people to enjoy this "miracle of mindfulness," as the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh calls it. The great Reformer Martin Luther said that we should be reminded of our baptism every time we wash our faces. Others have said that being in the rain or swimming should lead us to do the same. Just as Jews hang the *Mezuzah*, containing portions of the Law on the doorpost, to be reminded of God's word each time they enter or leave their home in (Deuteronomy 6), what things could you do throughout the day to remind you of God?

Say or write a prayer for daily activities. What do you do each day that is a prompt for thanksgiving or petition? "Thank you God that I still have my teeth," as you brush, or "Help me to be patience as I dust."

### An Everyday Blessing - By Kris Haig

*Bless to me my potted plants, O God.*

*Bless to me their green leaves*

*Bless to me their sturdy stems*

*Bless to me their ghostly roots that stretch deep  
into the secret loam.*

*Bless the pots that encircle them*

*Bless the water I pour on them*

*Bless the rivers and reservoirs, the pipes and spigots,  
and the sea-green glass pitcher  
that catches and carries your water of life.*

*Bless the sun that draws my plants to itself  
and bless you, O Christ,  
who draw me to yourself.*