



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16th 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
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader
www.fcclincoln.org
info@fcclincoln.org

Week of July 5 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 merciful God, we come to you in prayer, laying our struggles at your feet. We have had more than enough of the selfishness, disregard for others, and misinformation in our midst. Help us to do what we know is good, rather than what feels easy. Help us to resist the many temptations, for overeating, or gossip, or isolation that are calling to us these days. We look to you, O God, to save us! Send your Spirit to us to turn us away from despair and to give us hope that better days are coming. All of this we pray in the name of you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Check out our weekly video at 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.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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

Performed by The Hymn Club

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8T0br5JfAA>

Performed by Selah

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 website to make an online donation via PayPal.

Scripture Readings

Psalm 123

A Song of Ascents.

¹
To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in
the heavens!
² As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their mas-
ter,
as the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to
the LORD our God,
until he has mercy upon us.
³ Have mercy upon us, O LORD,
have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than
enough of contempt.
⁴ Our soul has had more than
its fill
of the scorn of those who are
at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

Romans 7:15-25

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions.
For I do not do what I want, but I do
the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do
what I do not want, I agree that the
law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer
I that do it, but sin that dwells within
me. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I
want, but the evil I do not want is
what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not
want, it is no longer I that do it, but
sin that dwells within me.
²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I
want to do what is good, evil lies close
at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of
God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in
my members another law at war with
the law of my mind, making me cap-
tive to the law of sin that dwells in my
members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am!
Who will rescue me from this body of
death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through
Jesus Christ our Lord!
So then, with my mind I am a slave to
the law of God, but with my flesh I am
a slave to the law of sin.

Reflection

Meditation for 5th Sunday after Pentecost

“Naming Our Struggles”

There are some passages of scripture that grab you the minute you read them. As a young college student, I remember reading this passage from Romans and thinking “Paul has put words to the very struggle I deal with in my life!” The Apostle Paul struggled with the tension of doing what he does not want to do and, at the same time, not doing the very things he desperately wanted to do. As a young Christian, I was struck by the resonance I felt with this passage. In these days of COVID-19, I suspect I have a lot of company in my ongoing struggle between doing what I want and what I think God wants me to do. I joke about my hope not to gain the COVID-19, but I, and perhaps many of you, struggle with my desire to do what is good and healthy and the siren song of doing what feels good even if it’s bad for me.

Paul used words that tend to be loaded for most of us; words like law, sin, and evil. In the search for a good translation, it’s easy to miss the depth buried in these concepts. When Paul talked about the “law” he used the Greek word “*nomos*.” This term often refers to the Mosaic Law, but it can also be used in a more general sense to mean “commandment” or moral guidance. Paul knew that God provides guidance to aid the Christian in leading a life that is pleasing to God and one that is built on love. This awareness often conflicts with humanity’s sinful nature. For Paul sin was more than simply doing something bad, He used the Greek word “*hamarta*” which means falling short of the mark, to wander from the law of God, to violate God’s plans for us. To sin is to wander from the path of uprightness and honor set forth by God.

Paul yearned to live a life that was “*Kalos*.” A life that is good, beautiful, hand-

some, excellent, eminent, useful, suitable, commendable, admirable, praiseworthy or noble. Instead, he found himself living a life that was often “*kakos*.” The qualities that seemed to arise were of a bad nature, base, wrong, wicked, troublesome, injurious, pernicious, or destructive. Paul agonized over the many ways he seemed to fall short of God’s intentions for him.

He was so overcome by this sense of falling short of God’s vision for him that he exclaimed: “Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?” Perhaps we find ourselves in a similar place these days, lamenting our shortcomings and struggles as we fall short of God’s intentions for our lives and for our world. Like Paul, we can be confident that this is not the final word. Paul went on to proclaim that salvation comes from God not from our own efforts. “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

This does not eliminate the struggles we have, but Paul’s words remind us that we need to put it all in God’s hands. It is in naming our struggles that we can learn to give them to God. Our reading from the Psalter today also reminds us to trust in the mercy of God, just as Paul did. Paul did not pass off his struggle as “the devil made me do it.” He did not play the victim or blame outside forces for his struggles. He acknowledged the very real presence of sin in his life and in the world. Ultimately, God saves us from sin and does not condemn us. In fact, God rejoices in our reliance and trust upon God.

May we have the courage to admit and confront the many ways in which we fall short of God’s vision. May we have the strength to trust and rely on God’s love and mercy.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

July 5, 2020

Spiritual Practice

A Time to Share and Reflect

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*
- Dennis, *battling cancer, friend of the Effle Family*
- Will Barrett, *for healing with gut issues, high-school aged neighbor of the Blossers*
- Prayers for justice and equality for our brothers & sisters of color throughout the nation. We are ALL created in God's Image! *from Tom Mason*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Murray Christian Church and Rev. Michael Njus

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Anne Gregory serving in Thailand

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Whether you are eating alone or with someone else, you have the opportunity to examine the day that has just passed or that which is to come. At breakfast, for example, you might lift up one way in which you hope to be more faithful. Other meals provide time to reflect on ways in which you have been aware of God's presence.

A simple but meaningful method is to offer up one good thing and one bad thing that occurred during the course of the day. This basic form of examen is particularly helpful in family situations or with smaller children. Some families have taken to putting a penny in a jar for each of several good things noted, for example, \$0.03 if there are three good things shared at the table. This money is collected for a donation to the church or secular efforts to end hunger.



Office of Spiritual Formation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)