



# 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 August 9, 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 God that does not leave our side, we come to you in prayer today fearful and uncertain. Even the few plans we have had for the future seem to be changing every day. Strengthen us, Lord, to face uncertainty with resolve. Help us fight our natural instincts to be afraid and untrusting. Encourage us to hear our neighbor's cry for help, and urge us to respond with love and compassion. With your Spirit may we do better today than yesterday. We pray this in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.

**New Way to Connect!**  
**Dial-A-Sermon 402-205-5988**  
**Call any time to hear Pastor Karen's sermon for the week!**

## 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.

**Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QlBk1hfKgY4>

*Performed by Cathedral Choir of Hyde Park United Methodist Church*

**Your Grace is Enough**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpYtYYaTFGQ>

*Performed by Chris Tomlin*

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

## *Genesis 45:1-15*

<sup>1</sup> Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, ‘Send everyone away from me.’ So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his

house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.”

<sup>12</sup> And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’ <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 11th Sunday after Pentecost*

### “Seeking Love & Compassion, Not Revenge”

In her passionate YouTube video, author and activist Kimberly Jones threw out a line that caught the attention of many of us: “They are lucky that what Black people are looking for is equality and not revenge!” In a few short minutes, Jones likened the current climate in our country to a game of Monopoly. Her goal was to point out the economic disparities that fuel the protests, riots, and looting around the country. In an interview with Jones on the Daily Social Distancing Show with Trevor Noah, Noah paraphrased her closing remark in the video, “people are lucky we want justice and not revenge.” Having come from South Africa, Noah has experienced first-hand the cries for justice and equality that are being heard around our country and world today.

Our various passages from Genesis this summer have this theme running through them all. From Jacob’s story through his son Joseph’s, there was often the suspicion that vengeance was the ultimate goal of those who had been wronged. Jacob frequently suspected that his brother Esau, whom he had wronged, would be seeking revenge. This theme appears once again in this story of Joseph. His brothers, who had sold him into bondage, feared that vengeance would be the order of the day. How shocked they must have been when they learned this was the farthest thought from his mind. Perhaps Joseph’s line would have been “They are lucky that what I am looking for is love and compassion, not revenge!”

It undoubtedly says more about us as human beings than we’d like to admit. How often do our minds go to the fear of vengeance? Revenge fueled, and continues to fuel, many social groups in Jacob’s and Joseph’s time, and in ours. Revenge would have been the natural response to the kind of wrongs that had occurred in both their stories. Jacob knew what he had done was wrong, that he had treated his brother wickedly

when he had cheated him out of his birthright. Joseph’s brothers knew that their jealousy inspired decision to sell their brother into bondage merited revenge. How shocked they must have been when this natural response was not made. Sadly, we are equally as shocked when revenge is not the response to inequality and injustice today.

The dictionary defines revenge as “the action of inflicting hurt or harm on someone for an injury or wrong suffered at their hands.” Guilt, anger, and fear usually fuel revenge. Jacob and Joseph’s brothers knew what they had done was wrong. They probably felt some guilt and may have been angry that their actions had come to the light of day. They knew they had acted wrongly and that death could be the rightful cost of their actions. Instead, they were met with love, compassion, and a desire for reconciliation. The response of love, compassion and reconciliation changed all their lives, both those who had been wronged and those who had hurt them.

Love, compassion, and the desire for reconciliation changes us and empowers us to make life-affirming choices. Revenge only leads to death and destruction. Revenge traps us in a cycle of anger, fear, and guilt. Joseph’s decision to choose love empowers us to do the same. As we reframe the motives of others, we all become empowered to act in loving, compassionate, and life-affirming ways. As we hear the voices of those who protest, riot, and loot as seeking equality and justice, we become more able to respond in loving and compassionate ways. Jacob and Joseph’s brothers were blessed that Esau and Joseph really wanted love and not revenge. We are all blessed as we hear and respond to the cries for justice and equality made by people today.

May we have the courage to fight our natural impulses and choose love, compassion, equality, and justice instead.

**AMEN**

# Prayers & Praises

## August 9, 2020

### In Our Church Family:

- William Deterding
- Betty Ferguson
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- Marj Snodgrass
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Gwen Belden
- Roxie Pickel

### 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*
- Fred Ogren, *prayers for healing during hospitalization, son of La-Vonne Ogren*
- Tricia Gangwish, *prayers for fighting breast cancer, aunt of Lindsay Swanson*
- Sondra Peterson & Sister Rhonda, *prayers for the passing of their mother*

### Friends:

- Pam Larsen, *continuing to fight cancer, friend of Marcia Foster*
- Peggy Westburg, *praise for improvement, though there is no cure for her cancer, 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*
- Peggy, *prayers for fighting breast cancer, co-worker of Sara Lugin*

### 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:

- Pawnee City FCC and Rev. Duane Westing

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Thomas Smith serving in Korea

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



# Spiritual Practice

## Attentive Eating

Have you ever considered spending time in intentional silence while eating with another person? Try to be present to the other without filling each moment with words, or feeling awkward because you have nothing to say, and at the same time attentive to what and how you are eating.

A variation on this is to sit quietly, alone or with others, listening to a tape of quite music or a spiritual writer. Many classic texts can be found on tape, and mealtime provides a natural time to feed both the body and the soul. In many Benedictine communities, there is an assigned reader for each week to provide this prayerful service.

It is so easy to make all food “fast food,” consumed without thought or attention. Thich Nhat Hanh, a Buddhist monk, suggests eating in such a way that it takes several minutes, feeling the portion in your mouth, noticing its texture and weight, simply taking time with your food to really taste it. (See his book *The Miracle of Mindfulness*.)

John Calvin suggests praying both before and after meals (*Institutes* III.20.50). In addition to this, consider praying **during** meals. As spiritual exercise, take a moment to offer a short prayer between each bite you take. Just as we could thank God for every breath we take, so might we for every morsel we consume.

Be mindful of those who prepare your meals. In planning a weekly Sabbath day, prepare food ahead of time or schedule very simple meals so that no one has to sacrifice their time. Or make working together in the kitchen a priority.

Be aware of those who do not have enough to eat. Schedule a weekly meal with simple fare, perhaps only bread, fruit, cheese, and water. Recognize that for many people around the world, this would be a feast. Give thanks that this simple meal is a choice you can make, not a way of life forced upon you by poverty.

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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>