



# 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

**Mark W. Miller**, Director of Music Ministries

**Sara Lugn**, Stephen Ministry Leader

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

[info@fcclincoln.org](mailto:info@fcclincoln.org)

**Week of September 6, 2020**



OWE NO ONE  
ANYTHING,  
EXCEPT TO LOVE  
EACH OTHER  
ROMANS 13:8, ESV

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

Dear God, with everything going on in the world, it is hard to see the light some days. There are natural disasters, injustice, illness, and vile speech everywhere we turn. Lord, help us not to be swallowed by this negativity, and rather to live into our roles as Children of God. Encourage us, through your Spirit, not to think less of ourselves, but to think of ourselves less. Give us the perseverance to love our neighbor during this turbulent time. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

### Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HJyIhu76YE>

*Performed by Katherine Jenkins*

### In Christ Alone

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

*Performed by Adrienne Liesching and Geoff Moore*

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

## *Psalms 149*

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!  
Sing to the Lord a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel be glad in its Maker;  
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise his name with dancing,  
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

<sup>4</sup> For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;  
he adorns the humble with victory.

<sup>5</sup> Let the faithful exult in glory;  
let them sing for joy on their couches.

<sup>6</sup> Let the high praises of God be in their throats  
and two-edged swords in their hands,

<sup>7</sup> to execute vengeance on the nations  
and punishment on the peoples,

<sup>8</sup> to bind their kings with fetters  
and their nobles with chains of iron,

<sup>9</sup> to execute on them the judgement decreed.

This is glory for all his faithful ones.  
Praise the Lord!

## *Romans 13:8-14*

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

# Reflection

*Meditation for 14th Sunday after Pentecost*

## “A New Wardrobe”

Perhaps Paul was not the only one worried about the end of times. There are voices today crying out with certainty, convinced that we are in the “End Times” now. Wildfires ravage the west, the most powerful hurricane to hit the Gulf Coast laid waste to that region, riots continue around our nation, and the COVID-19 pandemic rages on with no end in sight. It might be tempting to believe that the times Paul predicted are here. Paul’s reason for citing his belief in the coming “End Times” was not meant to frighten people; he wanted to urge his readers to wake up and look around. He urged those in the early Church to move away from the darkness and put on the armor of light. He went on to tell them to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ.” His words stuck me as I thought about our current context. What would it mean for us to put on the armor of light and put on the Lord Jesus Christ?

It could be tempting to shrug off everything that is happening by saying “it’s the End Time and there’s nothing we can do about it!” Paul did not give the early Roman Christians that way out, nor does he give it to us today. The sense of the “End Times” impelled Paul to act. While there is so much darkness swirling around us, as there was in Paul’s time, we are called to live our lives in the light of God’s love. As people who put on the armor of light we do not deny the presence of the darkness, but we do affirm that the light is more powerful. Light enables us to see things as they are and makes it possible to shape the present and the future guided by God’s love and presence.

While surrounded by darkness it is easy to have the sense that we are all alone. During a recent sleepless night, I was struck at

how lonely it is to be up and about while much of the world sleeps. This experience may be different if one is a night shift worker or a “Night Owl.” However, I still remember working many night shifts as a staff chaplain when I had that sense of isolation and loneliness as the rest of the world slept. The darkness can fool us into believing we are all alone and the arrival of the dawn is a welcome sight. Light enables us to see those around us.

In these days of COVID, however, many of us may have that sense that even in the light, we are still alone. As we put on the Lord Jesus Christ, we are reminded that He is with us and we are never truly alone. This awareness of God’s presence in Christ also enables us to act in love. I suspect some of our isolation in the darkness of life today has to do with that growing sense that the world is divided between “us” and “them.” When we clothe ourselves in the armor of light and put on the Lord Jesus Christ, we are able to see that it is really “us” and “we.” Bound together in God’s love we are able to respond in ways that highlight the light and love of God.

It might be tempting to escape into thoughts about the “End Times.” There are times that abiding in the darkness can be a good thing. But, when we put on the armor of light and “put on the Lord Jesus Christ,” we are empowered to experience the world as a place of light and love in which we all live. In these challenging times, may we be inspired by Paul’s words to actively pursue the light and embrace the love of God that is here for us all now and always.

**AMEN**

# Prayers & Praises

## In Our Church Family:

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

## Relatives:

- Friends and Family of *Vic Burgess*
- Rick Pickel, *going back in for treatments, son of Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Becky, *prayers for healing from pneumonia and COVID-19, cousin of Dick Pickel*
- Fred Ogren, *prayers for healing during hospitalization, son of LaVonne 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*
- Peggy, *prayers for fighting breast cancer, co-worker of Sara Lugn*
- Brittney Clark, *prayers for financial struggles due to COVID-19*
- Mario Herrera, *prayers for healing after being shot in the line of duty, from Sara Lugn*

## 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:

- Shubert Christian Church

## Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mark Knowles serving in Lesotho



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

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>

# Hymn of the Week

## Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring  
your love. Where there is injury, your  
pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt,  
true faith in you.

*O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much  
to be consoled, as to console, to be understood,  
as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all  
my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me  
bring hope. Where there is darkness,  
only light, and where there's sadness,  
ever joy.

*O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much  
to be consoled, as to console, to be understood,  
as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all  
my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace. It is  
in pardoning that we are pardoned, in  
giving of ourselves that we receive, and  
in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much  
to be consoled, as to console, to be understood,  
as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all  
my soul.*