



# 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 September 13, 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, in this time of uncertainty, we pray to you in thanksgiving that you are our Way Maker. You lead us when our path is dark and foreboding. You follow behind us, urging us not to turn back, but to continue moving forward with our lives. Things are hard right now, and they only seem to be getting harder. It feels like you aren't here! Please, fill us with your Spirit, Lord, so that we open our eyes, ears, and hearts to sense your presence, even when you feel far away. 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.

#### Wade in De Water

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Kcgs9SIC68>

*Performed by Harry T. Burleigh*

#### Living Waters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYuCfHc6D3M>

*Performed by Keith & Kristyn Getty*

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

## *Exodus 14:19-31*

<sup>19</sup> The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup> It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.

<sup>22</sup> The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup> At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup> He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'

<sup>26</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' <sup>27</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.

<sup>28</sup> The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup> But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup> Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup> Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 15th Sunday after Pentecost*

### “God Goes Before Us and Behind Us”

I still remember sitting in the darkened theater as a child watching Cecil B. DeMille's class “The Ten Commandments.” Although this movie makes its way to the TV screen every year around Passover and Easter, there was nothing like the experience of seeing it on the big screen. I still vividly remember watching the Israelites cross the Red Sea on dry land followed closely by the Egyptian army. I was mesmerized by the grandeur of the scene; the water pushed back on either side of the dry path, all the Israelites rushing through the pathway, and the Egyptian army close behind them. Suddenly, my heart was filled with horror as the walls of water crashed down on the Egyptians. I was not so horrified by all the drowning people, it was the sight of the chariots and their horses struggling against the waves that upset me the most. All I could think was “all those poor horses!” While this is a foundational story of salvation for Jews and Christians, it raised grave concerns in my young heart and mind. How could God let so many people, and animals, perish to save others? It did not seem right to my young mind, it does not seem right to me even decades later.

Professor James M. Carr, from Union Theological Seminary In New York City, noted in his article on this text in *Lectionary Homiletics* that this biblical story is challenging; there seem to be clear winners and clear losers. The seemingly omnipotent Egyptians lose and the seemingly powerless Israelites win. Prior to this passage the Israelites find themselves trapped with the Egyptians before them and the Red Sea to their back. They cried out for deliverance which came in our passage today. Once the Israelites feared the Egyptians, but then they saw and feared the Lord. Carr's comments are a reminder that It is important to see the complexity of this story. It could be

tempting to get bogged down in some of the details as I did as a young person. One could easily overlook the intended messages of this story of salvation.

I think part of the message of this foundational story is the way God flips things upside-down. The powerful become powerless and the powerless gain power. Also, there is the reminder that God hears the cries of God's people and responds. Our story from Exodus also reminds us that God goes with us even in some of the most challenging times. We may be overwhelmed by fear and certain that things will not go well. The odds may seem to be against us. However, even in the darkest times we are reminded that God goes with us. Not only does God journey with us, but, God usually goes before us and behind us as God did for the Israelites. God's guidance and protection may come in unusual ways, as a pillar of fire or cloud.

Our passage from Exodus is a timeless story of salvation that still speaks to us today. We are invited to wrestle with the complexities of life and faith. We are invited to challenge these stories and ask the difficult questions. We are also invited to hear anew the foundational promises of God. No matter how challenging the times, and they are challenging today, God goes with us. God guides us and surrounds us with God's presence. God often turns things upside-down; the powerful become powerless and the powerless gain power and their voice. Most importantly, God hears the cries of God's people and responds. May we have the courage of the Israelites to go where God leads no matter how risky it may seem. God goes before us and behind us; yesterday, today 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
- Vic Burgess
- Donna Baker
- 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*
- Our deepest sympathy to the family of Mario Herrera, *upon his passing September 7, 2020*

## 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:

- Sidney First Christian Church

## Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Judy Chan serving Hong Kong

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>

# Song of the Week

## Living Waters

Written by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty & Ed Cash

Are you thirsty  
Are you empty  
Come and drink these Living Waters  
Time unbroken  
Peace unspoken  
Rest beside these Living Waters  
Christ is calling  
Find refreshing  
At the cross of Living Waters  
Lay your life down  
On Thee, all come  
Rise up in these Living Waters

*There's a river that flows  
With mercy and love  
Bringing joy to the city of our God  
There our hope is secure  
Do not fear anymore  
Praise the Lord of Living Waters*

Spirit moving  
Mercy washing  
Healing in these living waters  
Lead your children to the shore line  
Life is in these Living Waters

*There's a river that flows  
With mercy and love  
Bringing joy to the city of our God  
There our hope is secure  
Do not fear anymore  
Praise the Lord of Living Waters*

Are you thirsty  
Are you empty  
Come and drink these Living Waters  
Love, forgiveness  
Vast and boundless  
Christ, He is our Living Water

*There's a river that flows  
With mercy and love  
Bringing joy to the city of our God  
There our hope is secure  
Do not fear anymore  
Praise the Lord of Living Waters*