



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

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Week of September 20, 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 Lord of the Exodus, we come to you asking for forgiveness. Please look past our grumbling and complaining. Life isn't the way we want it to be right now. We can't hug our loved ones, we cannot gather together in celebrations, we cannot even safely go to a crowded restaurant. We know these are inconsequential when we look at the big picture. And the big picture is You. God, thank you for hearing our prayers, forgiving our complaints, and walking alongside us on our journey through each day. We pray 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.

Morning Has Broken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5D3LEjGF8A>

Performed by Orla Fallon

The Bread Has Been Broken

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

Words and Music by Joe Beck and Wendy Willis

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 16:2-15

² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, ‘If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.’ ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, ‘In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?’ ⁸ And Moses said, ‘When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter

against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.’

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.”’ ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹² ‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.”’

¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.’

Reflection

Meditation for 16th Sunday after Pentecost

“Life Is Better With God”

Do you remember the classic Clint Eastwood movie “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly?” It came out in 1966, so many of you may not know this one, but I remember watching it in the movie theater as a young teenager. I’m not really a western fan so it was not one of my favorite movies, but, you have to admit, it had a great title. Our passage from Exodus this week could be called “the Good, the Bad and the Ugly.” We see all sides of the Israelites; the good, the bad, and the ugly. The good heroes of our story, the Israelites, have fled Egypt and found themselves in the wilderness. Sadly, it does not take long for the bad and ugly sides of their personalities to emerge. In the stress of finding themselves in a new and strange situation, they began to complain. The Hebrew here is great; it tells us that the community “grumbled against Moses and Aaron.” That is how the Jewish Bible and the New American Standard Bible translated it. The New Revised Standard Version translated the word “complain.” Grumbling does seem to describe the sense of things better. Can’t you just hear them? Grumbling and complaining. So often grumbling is one way we humans have to express deeper struggles. What was really behind all that grumbling?

Ultimately, the Israelites wanted to know that God was still present, that God really cared for them, that God was active in their lives, and that life was better with God’s guidance. If we are honest, we may feel much like the ancient Israelites. In these frightening and uncertain times we may find ourselves grumbling too. For me, grumbling has often taken on the form of whining. Whatever we call it, grumbling, complaining or whining, we probably yearn for the same things. We want to know that God is present, that God really cares, that God is active in our lives and in our world, that life is better with God’s guidance.

In her recent book “Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks,” author Diana Butler Bass invites us to go below the grumbling and complaining. She invites the reader to examine the grumbling and complaining that leads us away from genuine gratitude. She hopes to instill in the

reader a deeper awareness that awakens transformative gratitude. Until we examine what lies beneath our grumbling and complaining we cannot embrace genuine gratitude. Like the ancient Israelites, we fear that there is never enough and that we will not get what we really deserve. Until we examine the bad and the ugly in our lives we cannot embrace the good. We must dig beneath the grumbling and the complaining to discern what it is we really seek. Our story from Exodus also reminds us that we need to discern what our personal grumbling and complaining is all about as well as our communal grumbling and complaining. What do we yearn for as a community? We hear the grumbling and complaining in cities like Portland, Chicago, and Kenosha. We hear the grumbling of those unemployed and those yearning for economic justice. Butler Bass reminds us that we strive to fill ourselves in so many ways, but we hesitate to listen to the grumbling in our hearts and in our communities.

Are we willing to look deeper, to look below the grumbling and complaining in our hearts, in our communities, in our nation? Are we willing to ask the deeper questions in our hearts and minds? In these troubling times, how would we answer these deeper concerns? Is God really there? Does God care about each of us and about us as parts of communities? Is God active in our troubled lives and world? Is life better with God and God’s guidance? This ancient story from scripture reminds us that God was present with Israel and cared about them. God heard their cries and actively answered them. Life was better with God in it. These truths are as true for us today as they were for the ancient Israelites. Our challenge today is to discern the ways in which God is present, the ways God demonstrates God’s care, that God is truly active in our lives and world, and that life is better with the awareness that God guides us still.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

September 20, 2020

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
- Fred Ogren, *prayers for healing during hospitalization, son of LaVonne Ogren*
- Tracey & Jeanne Reisis, *prayers for COVID-19 diagnoses, niece and nephew of Dick Pickel*
- 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 Lugin*
- 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:

- SouthPointe Christian Church and Rev. Steve Mason

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- John Campbell-Nelson serving in Indonesia

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at www.globalministries.org



Check out our weekly video at www.fc.lincoln.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

The Bread Has Been Broken

Words and Music by Joe Beck and Wendy Willis

Come to the table
Worship the savior
Taste what forgiveness is for
His mercy will lead us
The grace of God feed us
Making us hungry for more
His body was given for you and me
Blood on the cross and believe

*The bread has been broken
Our eyes has been opened
Oh come Lord restore and renew
Your word has been spoken
So humble and broken
We do all in remembrance for you*

The bread has been broken
And all those who know him
Believe him without touching his scar
His death reconciled us
We live sanctified to become
What we already are
To him who loves us
And freed us to love
We glory and honor and praise

*The bread has been broken
Our eyes has been opened
Oh come Lord restore and renew
Your word has been spoken
So humble and broken
We do all in remembrance of you*

All in remembrance of you
In remembrance
His body was given for you and for me
Look on the cross and believe

*The bread has been broken
Our eyes has been opened
Oh come Lord restore and renew
Your word has been spoken
So humble and broken
We do all in remembrance of you*

*The bread has been broken
Our eyes has been opened
Oh come Lord restore and renew
Your word has been spoken
So humble and broken
We do all in remembrance of you
All in remembrance for you*

Jesus