



**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

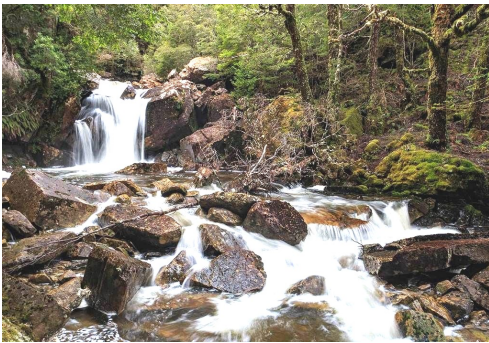
**Mark W. Miller**, Director of Music Ministries

**Sara Lugin**, Stephen Ministry Leader

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**Week of September 27, 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 of the wilderness, hear us as we cry out, “how long?” We know we are not the first of your followers to feel lost in uncertainty, and we know we are not the first to doubt if you still care. Lord, be with us as we struggle to find a new way forward, and be compassionate to us as we grieve the way things used to be. God, with your encouraging Spirit, we can find a new normal, but we will need your guidance, love, and support. We pray for all this through your Son, Jesus, who faced and endured the ultimate wilderness. 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.

#### Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3 CHF4gRyfl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CHF4gRyfl)

*Words by John Newton, Music by Joseph Haydn*

#### Enough

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87Ig-lnWjzQ>

*Performed by Chris Tomlin*

Even if you are worshiping 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 17:1-7*

<sup>1</sup> From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded.

They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

<sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?'

<sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' <sup>5</sup> The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

## *Philippians 2:1-13*

<sup>1</sup> If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 17th Sunday after Pentecost*

### “Testing & Finding Fault”

The days turned into weeks, then months. There was no end in sight. The time in the wilderness dragged on and on. Fear and frustration began to morph into anger and resentment. Everything that had once been certain was gone. When would this all come to an end? The ancient Israelites grew angrier with each passing day. They directed their anger at their leaders. Why had they been led away from the life they knew into this place of uncertainty and death? We may find this story from Exodus more familiar than it has ever been before. As we pass more than 6 months since the beginnings of the COVID pandemic and the deaths of over 200,000 people here in the US, we may find ourselves wandering in the wilderness too. All the familiar trappings of life have changed and we see no end in sight. Many of us have grown COVID weary. Our minds wander ahead, what will the holidays be like this year? Will we be able to gather with loved ones for Thanksgiving? How will we celebrate Advent and Christmas this year?

The plight of the ancient Israelites has much to teach us as we wander through our own wilderness. From the very first verse, we hear these words of wisdom; “From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded.” We, like the ancient Israelites, want all this to be over. We want to move through the wilderness as quickly as possible and get to life on the other side. We hear the escalation of anger and frustration all around us and we may struggle with these feelings as well. But, like the ancient Israelites, we make this journey in stages. The power of this story is in the reminder that God journeyed with them, that God heard the cries of God’s people, and that God responded. God gave the Israelites the essentials for survival in the wilderness: food and water. Interestingly enough, in the Sinai Desert water lies just beneath the limestone surface and God enabled them to tap into that resource. God responded to the people even amidst their anger and frustration.

In her theological reflections for Lectionary Homiletics, Professor Rebecca H. Weaver from Union PSCE in Richmond, VA, reminds us that

the wilderness is traditionally a place where people learn who God is and who they are. The scary thing about the wilderness is that survival is not assured. Nothing in Israel’s past prepared them for this unprecedented time in the wilderness and the uncertainty of that time brought everything into question. They had to confront the reality that they were dependent on God. They had to face their fear and anger. They were hostile and angry because they were not in control, God was. They had to face their dependence on God, even for the small things, and believe in a God who cared about the small things.

As the passage comes to a close we learn that “He, Moses, called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?” Moses embraced the reality of the people as they struggled through the wilderness. He did not deny their anger or avoid the reality that they tested him as a leader and wondered if God was still with them. Instead, Moses, empowered and led by God, embraced the reality of the Israelites and responded. With God’s guidance, Moses gave the people the water they so desperately needed. Then, he was able to lead them on, in stages. The time in the wilderness would not end any time soon. They would face many trials and struggles. They persevered and their story invites us to do the same. We will continue to make our way through these days of COVID in stages. There will be times we will be angry and frustrated. Like the ancient Israelites we may put God to the test and wonder “Is the Lord among us or not?” COVID will not magically disappear. We will be forever changed by this journey. However, like the ancient Israelites, we can be assured that God is among us, that God hears our cries, even the grumbling and complaining ones, and that God responds. There are days in which this may not seem to be enough and that is okay, too because God journeys with us in stages, on the good days and the bad.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## September 27, 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 Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

Southview Christian Church and  
Rev. Kerry O'Bryant

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Robert Howard serving in Fiji



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

## Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

*Text: John Newton, 1775*

*Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797*

Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, City of our God. God, whose  
word cannot be broken, formed  
thee for a blest abode. On the rock  
of ages founded, what can shake  
thy sure repose? With salvation's  
walls surrounded, thou may'st  
smile at all thy foes.

Round each habitation hovering,  
see the cloud and fire appear for a  
glory and a covering, showing that  
the Lord is near. Thus deriving  
from their banner light by night  
and shade by day, safe the feed up-  
on the manna which God gives  
them when they pray.

See, the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love, well  
supply thy sons and daughters and  
all fear of want remove. Who can  
faint while such a river ever flows,  
their thirst to assuage? Grace, so  
like the Lord the giver, never fails  
from age to age.