



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 October 18, 2020

Face to Face

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

Creator God, sometimes when we pray to you, we hold a little back. We don't know if we are supposed to unleash all of our feelings on you. But today we are going to be gutsy and lay it all on the line. All of our fears, frustrations, angers, and doubts, we lay at your feet. Lord, it is so mysterious how you can be so far away as to create the cosmos, yet so close that you know each one of us by name. Close, too, is your Spirit which we pray will give us the courage to pray like Moses in the wilderness, seeking you out, and telling you all. In the name of Jesus we pray, 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.

Rock of Ages

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUU5MSTyoBA>

Performed by The Vagle Brothers

As It Is In Heaven

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGAZVASoUv4>

Performed by Matt Maher

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 33:12-23

¹² Moses said to the LORD, ‘See, you have said to me, “Bring up this people”; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, “I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.”

¹³ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.’ ¹⁴ He said, ‘My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’ ¹⁵ And he said to him, ‘If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.’

¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses, ‘I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.’

¹⁸ Moses said, ‘Show me your glory, I pray.’

¹⁹ And he said, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, “The LORD”; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But’, he said, ‘you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.’ ²¹ And the LORD continued, ‘See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.’

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly

³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Reflection

Meditation for 20th Sunday after Pentecost

“Ultimate Gutsy Pray-ers”

In these days of masking and physical distancing, seeing someone face to face has new meaning. It's a challenge to discern how someone is feeling or responding when one can only see part of their face. It's also a challenge to hear others and have a real conversation. When I was learning Czech while living in the Czech Republic, I hated trying to talk to people on the phone. Although I don't see well, I found that when I was talking with someone in person I got a lot of the meaning from body language and other signs that are not apparent in any other way. It seems that Moses also understood the value of a face to face encounter. The difference here is that Moses wanted this face to face encounter with God. That really took some chutzpa on his part. Earlier in Exodus we learned that the Israelites were terrified to see the face of God. They told Moses that they would rather get God's messages from him because if they saw the face of God they would die.

Not only did Moses want to see the face of God, he wanted God to see his face, too. Moses yearned to be known by God and called by name. Moses yearned for, and received, an intimacy that few in scripture ever knew. In many ways, Moses was the central character of this story in Exodus, and so he is an example for us today. Professor Kirsi Stjerna, from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA, in the theological reflections in *Lectionary Homiletics* described Moses as the “ultimate gutsy pray-er.” Not only did the ancient Israelites learn a lot from him, we have much to learn as well. Moses reminds us of the importance of being persistent and bold when communi-

cating with God. Moses also communicated clearly and openly with God. He shared the wide range of his feelings and thoughts with God, who reciprocated. Moses also reminds us of the otherness of God, which is balanced by the desire for intimacy. Both God and Moses wanted to know one another intimately which meant seeing each other face to face and calling each other by name. Stjerna is right, Moses is the “ultimate gutsy pray-er.” He was demanding, he asked for what he wanted clearly, and he was bold enough to argue with God.

The story of Moses invites us to be “ultimate gutsy pray-ers” as well. In these challenging times we are called to pray boldly, to be persistent, and to share openly with God. In his book *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home* well-known author Richard Foster described the heart of prayer as “Beginning or Simple Prayer.” In this type of prayer, we like Moses, are invited to share the experiences, thoughts, and feelings that make up our everyday life. We pour out our heart to a God far greater and more holy than we can imagine. And, at the same time, we pour out our hearts to a God who knows us by name. We pour out our hearts to a God who invites us into an intimate relationship. We are invited to share clearly and openly, knowing that in that process we come to know ourselves and God better. Ultimately, part of the power of Moses' example is the reality that he asked not only for himself but also for God's people.

May we have the courage of Moses to be the “ultimate gutsy pray-ers” too.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

October 18, 2020

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Betty Ferguson
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- William Deterding
- Marj Snodgrass
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Vic Burgess
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Fred Ogren, *prayers for healing during hospitalization, son of LaVonne Ogren*
- Tricia Gangwish, *prayers for fighting breast cancer, aunt of Lindsay Swanson*
- Our sympathy to Dick & Roxie Pickel upon to the passing of their nephew Tracey Reisis
- Will Oldenburg, *prayers for deployment to Middle East, cousin of D'Arcy Blosser*

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*
- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, *prayers for a diagnosis of glioblastoma, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser*

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:

Weeping Water FCC and Rev. Richard Ream

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Sean Amato serving in Egypt



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

Check out our weekly video at www.fcclincoln.org,
First Christian's Facebook page, or search for First
Christian Church, Lincoln, Nebraska on YouTube.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCVejAW8Dmqv8Jmk5rzj43g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVejAW8Dmqv8Jmk5rzj43g)

Song of the Week

As It Is In Heaven

Words by Matt Maher

Our Father, who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Come and let Your glory,
Come and let Your glory fall.

Our Father, who art in Heaven
The rocks cry out Your fame
Come and let Your glory,
Come and let Your glory fall.

I will sing, sing a new song
I will sing, sing a new song
I will sing, sing a new song to the Lord

Let Your kingdom come
Let Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Every heart proclaim
The mercy of Your name
On earth as it is in heaven.

God give us new every morning
Mercy His daily bread
In the name of Jesus
In the name of Jesus we pray

And lead us, not to temptation
But deliver us with Your hand
In the name of Jesus
In the name of Jesus we pray
Father we pray

I will sing, sing a new song
I will sing, sing a new song
I will sing, sing a new song