



# First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

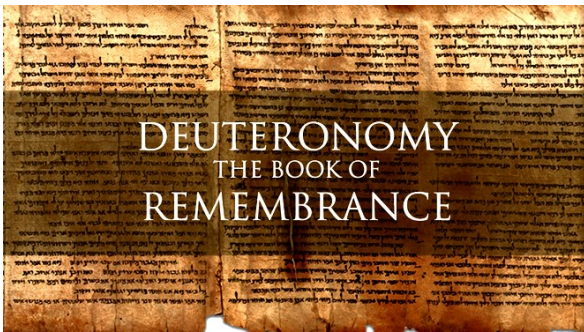
## Weekly Worship

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  
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**Week of October 25, 2020**



## 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.

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.

### Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

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

*Performed by Etta James*

### Community Prayer

God, you are the author of every chapter of our lives. We pray to you in joy and wonder that we get to be a character in your story of the world. We pray that you will encourage us when we are feeling sorry for ourselves, that you will help us see that we are only minor characters in the grand scheme of things. Sometimes life feels unfair, and it is hard to appreciate that maybe we should be learning a lesson from our hardships. Guide us with your Spirit that we may face with glad hearts every page, every day in our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

### Love Is Here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLy-B9LuqMo>

*Performed by Tenth Avenue North*

**New Way to Connect!**  
**Dial-A-Sermon 402-205-5988**  
**Call any time to hear Pastor Karen's sermon for the week!**

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

## *Deuteronomy 34:1-12*

<sup>1</sup> Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, <sup>2</sup> all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, <sup>3</sup> the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD said to him, ‘This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, “I will give it to your descendants”; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.’ <sup>5</sup> Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. <sup>6</sup> He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. <sup>7</sup> Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. <sup>8</sup> The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

<sup>9</sup> Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

<sup>10</sup> Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. <sup>11</sup> He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, <sup>12</sup> and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

## *Matthew 22:34-46*

<sup>34</sup> When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup> and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

<sup>36</sup> ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’

<sup>37</sup> He said to him, ‘“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

<sup>41</sup> Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question:

<sup>42</sup> ‘What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?’ They said to him, ‘The son of David.’ <sup>43</sup> He said to them, ‘How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

<sup>44</sup> “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet’ ”?

<sup>45</sup> If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?’ <sup>46</sup> No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 21st Sunday after Pentecost*

### “Part of a Bigger Story”

This passage from Deuteronomy always makes me sad. Poor Moses! He made the long journey with the Israelites, he led them through unprecedented and challenging times, and he brought them to the Promised Land. After all that, he does not get to enter the Promised Land. It feels as though God was taunting him a bit, you can look and see but not enter. In this brief and poignant passage we are told that Moses died. During these unprecedented and challenging times, I feel particularly sad as I reflect on this passage. Throughout these past several months we have had to deal with many losses. In our pastor's retreat last week, we were invited to list all the losses we have experienced since the beginning of COVID. We were invited to list all them; the literal deaths of those we knew and loved as well as all the other losses. I was surprised at how long my list was. It is only in naming our losses that we are able to grieve and heal.

In her Pastoral Implications reflection for *Lectionary Homiletics* Deborah Sokolove, from Wesley Theological Seminary In Washington D.C noted that this story presented what most of us would call “a good death.” No lingering, no life support, no end of life challenges. Moses was in good shape and he got to die peacefully. She went on to point out that Moses' story reminds us that there are many things we will not accomplish and many dreams we will not fulfill. The gist of the story is that Moses died having left undone the heart of his calling, he did not guide them into the Promised Land. In a way, Moses was not successful but he was faithful. It was for his faithfulness that he was honored, by God and Israel. Even so, Kirsi Stjerna from Lutheran Theological Seminary In Gettysburg, PA reminded us in her *Theological Reflections*: “Death always brings a disappointment: one's part in the larger story ends and one cannot see what unfolds later.”

Death interrupts and disappoints leaving a sense of incompleteness.

The death of Moses invites us to become aware of and ponder the deaths and losses in our lives. Each death or loss touches all those that have gone before which makes facing them even more challenging. But, it is in our willingness to name and confront them that we find healing. It is in grieving our losses that we are able to go deeper.

Professor Marti Steussy from Christian Theological Seminary In Indianapolis, IN invites us to go deeper as she explored the Hebrew in our passage. In her discussion of this story, she commented that in a Rabbinic reading of this passage we gain a different perspective. God ushered Moses into death directly and peacefully. Moses was granted instantaneous peace. The Hebrew said that Moses died “at the mouth (kiss) of God.” The Hebrew also intimated that God buried Moses. There was an intimacy, a tenderness, that seemed fitting for the person who knew God “face to face.” While the death of Moses was sad, it was a demonstration of a deep abiding love. Moses' death made it clear that this is not a story about Moses, it is a much bigger story. Moses was a character, an instrument, in a much bigger story. Stjerna reminded us that, ultimately, God was, and is, the main character.

Perhaps that is really the key message for us today. Each and every one of us is an important character in the story, but ultimately, we are simply characters in a much grander story. We are all part of God's story. In these unprecedented and challenging times we are continually reminded that God is the central character and we are all part of that story.

**AMEN**

# Prayers & Praises

## October 25, 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
- David Harris, *for COVID diagnosis*

### 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 Lugin*
- 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:

Wilsonville United Baptist Christian Church and Rev. Keith Theobald

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Martha Mensendiek serving in the Philippines

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



# Song of the Week

## Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

*Words by Wallis Willis*

Swing low, sweet chariot  
Coming for to carry me home  
Swing low, sweet chariot  
Coming for to carry he home

Swing low, sweet chariot  
Coming for to carry me home  
Swing low, sweet chariot  
Coming for to carry he home

I looked over Jordan and what did I see  
Coming for to carry he home  
A band of angels coming after me  
Coming for to carry me home

Swing low, sweet chariot  
Coming for to carry me home  
Swing low, sweet chariot  
Coming for to carry me home

If you get there before I do  
Coming for to carry me home  
Tell all my friends I'm coming too  
Coming for to carry me home

Swing low, sweet chariot  
Coming for to carry me home  
Swing low, sweet chariot  
Coming for to carry me home

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