



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 November 1, 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

Dear God of might, we are so thankful for your presence in our lives. If we just look hard enough, you are there for us everyday, in the changing colors of the leaves, or the glimmer of the sun off the first snowfall. It is these little things that happen each year that allow us to remember the good times we've had with family and friends. This year, Lord, we grieve these rituals because we don't know if they will be the same as they have been in years past. Give us the courage and share with us your might to continue to see and feel your presence in all that we do. 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.

For All The Saints

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OaBgaMcOvM>

Performed by Choir of King's College, Cambridge

Unbroken Praise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXRv9l1SFe4>

Performed by Matt Redman

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

Joshua 3:7-17

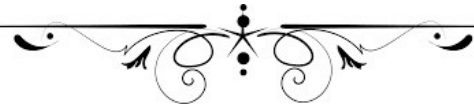
⁷ The LORD said to Joshua, ‘This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses.

⁸ You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, “When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.” ⁹ Joshua then said to the Israelites, ‘Draw near and hear the words of the LORD your God.’ ¹⁰ Joshua said, ‘By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: ¹¹ the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. ¹² So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³ When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap.’

¹⁴ When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. ¹⁵ Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, ¹⁶ the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those

flowing towards the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

¹⁷ While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.



1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

⁹ You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was towards you believers. ¹¹ As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, ¹² urging and encouraging you and pleading that you should lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³ We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God’s word, which is also at work in you believers.

Reflection

Meditation for 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

“God’s Presence, Might, and Protection”

We don’t talk about it much in DOC circles, but there is something about the power of ritual. We may use different words for it, but there is a basic human need to remember and re-enact key events in our lives. We do this as we come together for holidays or birthdays. I think some of the challenge facing us during these days of COVID has to do with our inability to live into the rituals of our lives. As we face the upcoming holidays, many of us wonder if we will be able to gather with loved ones and friends in ways that have meaning for us. We may not call these events “rituals,” but they are events that enable us to remember and re-enact key events in our lives. Our lives feel empty when we are unable to come together in these ways. As we mark All Saints Sunday, we come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died.

We often resist the term ritual because of its negative connotations of repeated actions done without meaning. However, our text today from the book of Joshua reminds us of how important and life giving rituals can be. God called Joshua to step into the role of leadership left vacant by Moses’ death. God went on to instruct Joshua and the people to enact a ritual to help them remember and celebrate their relationship with God.

In her reflections for *Lectionary Homiletics*, Roberta Rhodes from Austin, TX, reminds the reader that this passage was meant to evoke the crossing of the Red Sea. Just as the Red Sea crossing marked a new beginning for the Israelites, so too the crossing of the Jordan marked a new beginning for these followers of Joshua. They left behind their itinerant lives in the wilderness for a more settled life in this new land. Both events were the realization of promises made by God.

In this passage, Joshua was like a new Moses and he was God’s choice. Even so, Joshua was no Moses. God commanded Moses to use his staff to part the Red Sea. Here, Joshua instructed the priests to be the ones to part the waters. Joshua assured them that this ritual was intended as a reminder that God would continue to lead them and go with them. God was preparing a place for them.

Just as God was present in the past, God remained present in this new phase of their story. Rhodes goes on to remark that the Ark “passed by” the people just as God passed by on the initial Passover. This ceremony was intended to remind the people of God’s deliverance. “Both acts of passing by serve as signs of hope to the people.” Rhodes went on to say.

Our friend from previous reflections, Kirsi Stjerna, also comments that this story can be a testimony to the might, protection, and presence of God in all times and places. The Ark was a physical manifestation of God’s presence, might, and protection. While the manifestation of that reality changed over time, the reality of God’s presence, might, and protection remained. As people of faith who follow Christ, we also have rituals and symbols that remind us of God’s presence, might, and protection. As we gather around the Table for worship we are reminded of God’s presence through Jesus and his supper with those he loved. As we gather on All Saints Sunday we are reminded of all those who have graced our lives and have been witnesses to God’s love and presence.

We need not turn away from ritual and symbol as long as we remember that they point us to a greater reality. As we ponder gathering with loved ones during the holidays, we are invited to remember and celebrate the love we share. The challenge of these times may be that we are invited to ponder the rituals and symbols that have enriched our lives. Hidden in these times may be an invitation to imagine and create new rituals. Our passage today guides us to always consider how the rituals and symbols of our lives point us to the love and presence of God.

What rituals could we create that help us remember and celebrate the presence, might, and protection of God? The God who made promises to our ancestors long ago is the God who continues to abide with us now. We, like the ancient Israelites, can trust in the promises of God whose presence, might, and protection are still with us today and will guide us into the future.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

November 1, 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*
- Wayne Rediger, *prayers for triple bypass surgery, brother-in-law of Cec Burkhart*

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*

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:

York First Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Phyllis Byrd serving in Kenya



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>

Song of the Week

For All The Saints

Words by William Walsham How

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 O blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warrior cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!