



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 8, 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 Creator God, you choose us over and over again no matter how many times we have pushed you away. Give us the courage and the strength to Choose You every day of our lives. We know that you know our struggles, how we are battling our fear and anxiety this day, this week, this year. We know that you are always here for us as long as we show up for You and one another. Hold us accountable for the promises we make to you, for we know you always make good on the promises you make to us. We pray in the name of the greatest promise of all, Your son, Jesus.

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.

Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho

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

Performed by Mahalia Jackson

10,000 Reasons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE IRI0E>

Performed by Matt Redman

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 Reading

Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25

¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

¹⁴ ‘Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.’

¹⁶ Then the people answered, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and

who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.’

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, ‘You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.’

²¹ And the people said to Joshua, ‘No, we will serve the LORD!’ ²² Then Joshua said to the people, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.’ And they said, ‘We are witnesses.’

²³ He said, ‘Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.’ ²⁴ The people said to Joshua, ‘The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.’ ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reflection

Meditation for 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

“Face Everything and Rise”

A friend recently introduced me to the work of motivational speaker and pastor John C. Maxwell. He said “life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.” Whether we like it or not, we make choices every day. Some choices are small, like deciding to get out of bed each morning, but there are also much bigger ones. These bigger choices shape our lives. We make choices about our education, about our vocation, and about our relationships. As we continue to move through these days of pandemic, it is sometimes easy to believe that we do not really have much choice in things. However, our attitude about the choices we face makes all the difference. Our attitude can lead us in a hopeful or fearful direction. Will we choose fear or hope? Will we choose discouragement or encouragement? Will we make, or renew, a choice to follow God? This latter choice, to follow God, enables us to make many of the other choices in our lives.

Our passage from Joshua speaks explicitly about choosing. Joshua reminds us that openness to God is central. Our brothers and sisters in AA and other recovery programs remind us of how important it is to make choices daily and often hourly. In fact, the wisdom they live by also suggests that we must simply take things one day at a time. The author of Joshua clearly invites us to make a decision, “choose this day whom you will serve.” Each day we choose God we are strengthened for the day, for the next decision, and for each choice that follows. Our decision to choose God enables us to make a choice for hope. We are reminded, however, that the opportunity to choose is also a gift. It is a sign of the freedom God gives us. It is a privilege not to be taken lightly or for granted.

The foundation of this gift of choice lies in the reality that God chose us. God chose us long ago by choosing our ancestors. God chose

the ancient Israelites from amongst all the people and by extension God still chooses us today. Like the ancient Israelites, we are faced with many choices each and every day. We may not be literally choosing the gods of our ancestor or the gods of those around us, but, we are confronted with all kinds of choices. Many of our choices can lead us away from God. Joshua reminded the people that they had to be willing to commit to their choice. Their choice to serve God would shape all the choices that would come later. Joshua urged them to put their heart into their choice for God. Joshua urged them to make their choice concrete by creating a covenant. Joshua urged them to embody their choice for God and for God’s ways.

What are the gods we face today? They are numerous, but I think one of the dominant gods is fear. A certain level of fear is good. A healthy sense of fear helps us stay safe and healthy. In these days of COVID a healthy dose of fear urges us to mask and physically distance. A healthy dose of fear gives us prudence. But, sadly, too large a dose of fear can paralyze us. Another quote I found put it well: “Fear has two readings—forget everything and run, or, face everything and rise. The choice is yours.” In these challenging times which choice will we make? As we face our fears, name them, and perhaps share them with others or with God, we will be empowered to rise. In this way, we like Joshua and the ancient Israelites, will be able to wholeheartedly choose God. Such a path is not always easy, but it is well worth our effort. Joshua knew this, the Israelites came to know this, and in the end, we will know it too.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

November 8, 2020

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Betty Ferguson
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- William Deterding
- 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 Burkhardt*

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*
- Van Hall, *friend of William Deterding*
- Jeff & Sharon Schneiders and daughter Suzanne, *for complications with COVID-19, friends of the Blossers*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

Nebraska Regional Board, Committees, and Staff

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Ricardo Mayol serving in Guatemala

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



Song of the Week

10,000 Reasons

Matt Redman

Bless the Lord oh my soul

Oh my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before

Oh my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up

It's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass

And whatever lies before me

Let me be singing

When the evening comes

Bless the Lord oh my soul

Oh my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before

Oh my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

You're rich in love

And You're slow to anger

Your name is great

And Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness

I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons

For my heart to find

Bless the Lord oh my soul

Oh my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before

Oh my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

Bless You Lord

And on that day

When my strength is failing

The end draws near

And my time has come

Still my soul will

Sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years

And then forevermore

Forevermore

Bless the Lord oh my soul

Oh my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before

Oh my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name (2x Repeat)

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)