



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

Kelly Tyrrell, Church Administrator

Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugin, Stephen Ministry Leader

www.fcclincn.org

info@fcclincn.org

Week of November 22, 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 Lord, Ruler and King of all, we give you praise that you are our leader, teaching us the ways of peace. In our world, leaders are consumed with power and authority, but you teach us, through your Son Jesus, a different way of being. Giving, loving, being patient, being kind; these are the actions and attitudes appropriate to your kingdom. Help us to be kingdom people, help us be your flock, as we see and help the least of these in our own communities. Fill us with your Spirit of hope and love to encourage us to help and serve as we are able. 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.

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3pGwlF6vQg>

Performed by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

King

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

Performed by Tree63

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 fcclincn.org website to make an online donation via PayPal.

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-24

¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

¹⁷ As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats: ¹⁸ Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? ¹⁹ And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have fouled with your feet?

²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²² I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?

³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Reflection

Meditation for 25th Sunday after Pentecost

“Tending to the Least of These”

I just cannot help it, when I think of a king the image of King George III in the musical “Hamilton” rushes to mind. King George imperiously enters center stage in a fur-lined cape and large crown. His solo voice rings out: “You say the price of my love’s not a price you’re willing to pay.” Although intended to be a bit hyperbolic and humorous, the regal image is clear. There are not many modern day monarchs, but most of us have an idea of the characteristics of a strong ruler. Even if the monarch we imagine is more of a figure-head, we imagine such a person as someone with wealth, power, resources, privilege, and authority.

Jill Duffield, editor of the Presbyterian Outlook, commented in her reflection on this week’s texts that what struck her was the intimacy of the text. She went on to say:

“Jesus is Lord of all. But his rule is marked not by might but by tenderness, not with status but with service, not with control but with compassion. The antithesis to our worldly ways and desires is stark, perhaps especially now in the wake of such a contentious election season. Humility. Kindness. Healing. Feeding. Tending. Visiting. Justice. These are the markers of the reign of God. These are the traits we exhibit in the world when we follow Jesus Christ.”

She went on to note that the challenge in our passage is the recognition that the sheep and goats seem oblivious to the impact and consequences of their action or inaction. Our Gospel lesson invites us to set aside our oblivion. We are reminded that our action or inaction does have consequences. Our action or inaction also makes an impact on the lives of oth-

ers. We begin by seeing and acknowledging those in need. Jesus tells us clearly “...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

What enables us to see and recognize those in need all around us? Unlike King George who was far away across the ocean, Christ is in our midst. The welfare of all the subjects, particularly the most vulnerable, are of paramount concern to our Ruler. Unlike many Monarchs, including Caesar in the time of Jesus and the early Christians, Christ leads by example. His entire ministry was feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, providing clothes to the naked, caring for and healing the sick, visiting and freeing the imprisoned. Christ, as our example, empowers us to do the same. Christ as our King empowers and emboldens us to see, recognize, and respond to those in need.

We respond in many ways in our personal lives and in our ministries here at FCC. When we give of our time or resources to participate in the CROP Walk we feed the hungry in our neighborhood, community, nation, and world. When we’ve responded to our Outreach challenges, we have clothed the naked and helped many in need. When our Elders and Deacons reach out, they care for the sick and visit those confined. While we see, recognize, and respond to the needs of many people in all these ways, we are called daily to do so as we are able. Our actions do make a difference in God’s Realm. With Christ as our example, may we be continually empowered to tend to the “least of these.”

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

November 22, 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*
- Ron & Katy Pickel, *diagnosed with COVID-19, son and daughter-in-law of Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- 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*
- Aunt, Uncle, and several cousins with COVID-19 diagnoses, *family of Sondra Peterson*

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*
- Van Hall, *friend of William Deterding*
- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, *prayers for diagnosis of glioblastoma, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser*
- Our sympathy to Sharon Schneiders and daughter Suzanne, *upon the passing of Jeff Schneiders, 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:

All Disciples of Christ Chaplains in Nebraska

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Kelsey Riebel serving in Ecuador

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



Song of the Week

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Words by Charles Wesley

Music by John Darwall

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph ever more.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Our Savoir, Jesus reigns; the God of truth and love; when he has purged our stains, he took his seat above.

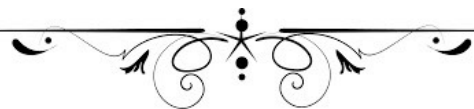
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come and gather all the saints to their eternal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!



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>