



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

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Week of November 29, 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 who is always near to us, we pray that you open our eyes and ears to Your presence all around us. It is so easy for us to fall into hopelessness, to wallow in self-pity, and to just plain feel sorry for ourselves. Lord, be with us, soften our hearts, help us to look for the good in every situation. Encourage us to be flexible, to go with the flux and flow of our ever changing schedules and lives. Let us find hope when all hope seems to be gone, let us find joy in the people in our lives, let us find You in the midst of everyday. We pray in the name of your son Jesus, 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.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dmO8UPlWoo>

Performed by Fernando Ortega

We Will See Him

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JreAAIQpH6U>

Performed by Hillsong

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

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,

so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² as when fire kindles brushwood

and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard,

no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



Reflection

Meditation for First Sunday of Advent

“Hope in the Face of Penetrating Hopelessness”

Professor Brad Braxton from Wake Forest Divinity School noted in his reflections on this passage from Isaiah in *Lectionary Homiletics* that “In the midst of a penetrating hopelessness, this prophet cries out to God.” Isaiah preached to the ancient Israelites who had been in Exile for decades. He told them that their Exile was finally coming to an end. As they prepared to return to their land and Temple, amidst their excitement and joy was still some grief for all that they had lost. Deep wrenching questions filled their hearts and minds; had this time in Exile changed them and was their relationship with God forever changed? They longed for answers and for a visit from God. They had to rediscover their identity.

In many ways we find ourselves in a similar Exile. As COVID continues, we pray an end to come soon but we are assailed by many questions and concerns. Has this year changed us? What kind of relationship do we have with God now? Who will we be after all of this is over? Who will we be as individuals, as a congregation, and as citizens of a nation and world? COVID has taken us into a “penetrating hopelessness.” We are weary, frustrated, and angry. In the midst of all this we continue to have personal experiences of “penetrating hopelessness.” We continue to face illness or injury. Death has not been a stranger either; we have faced the death of loved ones in our lives and in our congregation. And, as if all this is not enough, we find ourselves in the midst of the holidays which often brings our grief and pain to the surface. Our awareness of the “penetrating hopelessness” in our midst and all around us affects us. Like the ancient Israelites, we too long for signs of God’s presence. We ache for signs of hope.

Advent is an unusual time, a time of paradox when we are invited to embrace hopelessness and hope. We are invited to recognize this paradox. First, we have to slow down and spend some time in reflection and prayer. This Advent, in the midst of COVID, may present a unique opportunity to do just that. This holiday season will not be marked by the usual activities and events of years past. This Advent, here at FCC and in our Region, we are using a devotional written by our General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens. We have sent out this material for your own personal use and there will also be opportunities to participate in a Wednesday Zoom study. In addition to these devotional opportunities, we will continue with in-person and virtual worship. As we slow down and embrace the paradox of Advent we are invited to recognize and embrace our need for God.

Although Advent embraces hopelessness and hope, it is hope that has the final word because God is faithful and always present. So do not be afraid to acknowledge and embrace the hopelessness that is all around us. But embrace and share the hope and promise of this season. God is with us, amidst the hopelessness, bringing us hope and joy as we await God’s incarnation in a baby born in Bethlehem.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

November 29, 2020

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Betty Ferguson
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- William Deterding, *for COVID-19 in his facility*
- 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 other Disciples of Christ clergy in Nebraska

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Andrew Larsen serving in the Philippines

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Words by Charles Wesley

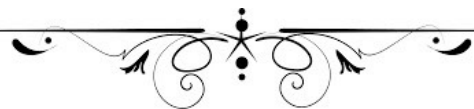
Music by Rowland Hugh Prichard

Come thou long expected Jesus,
born to set they people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength an consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit
raise us to they glorious throne.



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)