



# 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

[www.fcclincoln.org](http://www.fcclincoln.org)

[info@fcclincoln.org](mailto:info@fcclincoln.org)

**Week of January 3, 2021**



## Worship Playlist

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 Holy God of fresh beginnings, we pray today with hopeful hearts about the new year to come. As we waited and prepared through Advent, we truly came to make room in our hearts for the Christ child. We can never thank you enough for the gift of your Son. All we can offer is our hearts, minds, souls, and strength to follow in the ways he teaches us. May our fear and anxiety be hushed by his presence. May we seek out better for ourselves and our communities than we even think possible. May we love one another in the face of challenging situations. May we truly be children of God. Amen.

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.

### We Three Kings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8mjRxkMBkE>

*Performed by Jennifer Avalon*

### Christmas Offering

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuR3Npi5uM8>

*Performed by Casting Crowns*

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.

**New Way to Connect!**

**Dial-A-Sermon 402-205-5988**

**Call any time to hear Pastor Karen's sermon for the week!**

# Scripture Reading

## *Matthew 2:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for Epiphany Sunday*

### “The Journey of the Magi is Our Journey Too”

A colleague of mine once commented that the Magi seemed to be more like absent-minded professors than Wise Men. In their time they would have been regarded as scientists who observed the signs of nature. They were scientists of the heavens, astrologers, but not in the modern sense of the word. They observed the signs in the heavens, a new star, and they believed it was a sign of the arrival of a new king. So, as scientists are prone to do, they followed it. This entailed a long journey that took them far from their homes. It was a journey of many weeks, perhaps even months.

As logic would seem to dictate, they followed the star and as they drew closer they went to the place they believed would house a King. They went to the capitol Jerusalem. But, as absent-minded professors, they had no awareness of how their arrival would stir up the fears and anxieties of the current ruler Herod. Their only thought was to find the object of their search. Not only did their arrival stir up the fears and anxieties of Herod, Herod's fears and anxieties engulfed all those around him. Herod posed as an ally, eager to learn who the object of their search would discover. While his motives were quite different, he persuaded the Magi that they all sought this new ruler for the same reasons, to offer their praise. Undoubtedly, scratching their heads at this detour to Jerusalem, they continued to follow the star that took them to Bethlehem and the baby Jesus.

Today as we continue to shelter at home and physically distance, it may be difficult to imagine such a lengthy journey so far from home. Such a journey required great planning and preparations. They had to bring support and supplies for a journey that would take them to unknown places and would last an

unknown amount of time. Their story also reminds us of the wide appeal the arrival of Jesus had for so many. Poor shepherds to wealthy astrologers were all drawn to this new King. They came from near and far. They represented the children of Israel and the wider gentile world.

As we continue to grapple with life in a world-wide pandemic, it might be easier to empathize with Herod and those around him. Fear and anxiety may also overwhelm us. How might the visit of the Magi help us overcome those fears and embrace the hope brought by the birth of the Christ child? We may not make a literal journey to the Christ child as the Magi did, but we are invited to make such a journey in our hearts and minds. We have planned this journey over the four weeks of Advent. We have come faithfully to the manger in spite of our challenges and fears. We bring gifts more costly than gold, frankincense and myrrh; we bring ourselves.

The birth of the Christ child changes things, it changes us and the world in which we live. The birth of the Christ child invites us to set aside our fears and anxieties. The birth of the Christ child invites us to embrace an all-encompassing love. The kind of love that impelled God to send the Messiah to be born, live, and die in our midst. The kind of love that enables us to set aside our fear and embrace our faith. The journey of the Magi also teaches us that the journey is long and fraught with challenges, but it is worth it as we also come to the manger to worship the Christ child. May the joy and wonder of the Magi be ours today and always.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## January 3, 2021

### In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Arlene Heimer
- Vic Burgess
- Marvin Thurber
- Donna Baker
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- Polly Putney
- William Deterding
- Mildred Brockemeyer

### Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Rick Pickel, for returning to chemotherapy, son of Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Fred Ogren, prayers for healing during hospitalization, son of LaVonne Ogren
- Tricia Gangwish, prayers for fighting breast cancer, aunt of Lindsay Swanson
- Will Oldenburg, prayers as he anticipates deployment to the Middle East, cousin of D'Arcy Blosser
- John Swanson's father, in nursing home with COVID-19

### 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
- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, diagnosed with glioblastoma, prayers for healing, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser
- Daryl Cox, in hospice for cancer, friend of the Pickels
- Dan Principato, complications with COVID-19, friend of the Vocaseks
- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart
- Tomi, healing prayers for cancer diagnosis, friend 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:

Trinity Chapel and Rev. Brandon Proffit

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Jeffrey Mensendiek serving in Japan

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

[www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



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)

# Song of the Week

## We Three Kings

Text & Music: John Henry Hopkins, 1857

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising gladly raising,  
worshipping God Most High.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breaths a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in a stone-cold tomb.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and  
skies.