



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 Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader

www.fcclincoln.org

info@fcclincoln.org

Week of December 27, 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 God of Christmastime, we pray to you with great thanks and praise that you choose us to be your children. Now that we have meditated and worshipped the coming of your Son, Jesus, let us now to come to pray for the new beginnings that you bring to us. We pray that as we enter a new year we may be filled with optimism, patience, and a better outlook on life. We sincerely hope that as we worship beyond this Christmas season that the new choices you give to us will fill us with abundance. We pray in the name of the newborn King, 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.

Joy to the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZhgp97y7Q>

From Chet Valley Churches

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tC3SwhJsLqU>

Performed by Chris Tomlin

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 Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in
my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

62 ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reflection

Meditation for the 1st Sunday After Christmas

“Choosing and Chosen”

As we move past Christmas and toward the New Year, we are eager to embrace the new beginning offered by this time of year. There is something about the wonder of new life as we witness it in the birth of a baby that prompts us to embrace the new as well. Offers surround us to “make a new you in the New Year.” We may feel particularly tempted to embrace a new beginning as we move away from 2020 and all the challenges presented by this year of pandemic and protest. We yearn to know that 2021 will be nothing like 2020.

The new Christians in the church in Galatia also yearned for a new beginning. Paul assured them that things would be different now as they committed to follow the way of Christ. In fact, they would be different now too. Paul told them that through the birth, life, and death of Jesus they have been invited to embrace a new way of being. Paul told them that God had chosen them in a new and unique way. Paul used the image of adoption to describe this new way of being. Paul wrote to the Galatians to remind them that adoption is meaningful for everyone involved; for the adopted and those adopting.

The dictionary listing for the word “adoption” tells us that this word comes from the Latin and means “to choose.” To adopt means to take by choice into a relationship. In the Roman world of Jesus’ time, adoption was not relegated to children; Roman patricians often adopted adults, particularly when dealing with property and inheritances. For Paul, we have been adopted, chosen by God. Through God’s incarnation as the Christ, God now includes not only the children of Abraham but also welcomes Gentiles. Now everyone is part of God’s family.

In this year, when it feels as though so many of our choices have been taken from us,

how might embracing the Good News that God has chosen us change things? We can’t make the choice to move about freely, unencumbered by masks and physical distancing. Our choices are limited when it comes to spending holidays not only with close family, but with friends and neighbors. Choices to go to the mall for some shopping or dine out at our favorite restaurants are hindered. As we move through this year full of protests, we have had to confront all the ways in which many people in our past and present have been robbed of even the most basic choices. In the midst of all these challenges we are invited to ponder the importance of choosing in our daily lives and throughout our lifetime. We are reminded that most of us have many choices, including the ability to choose our responses and reactions to what is happening in our lives and in our world today.

The choices we do make seem even more important in the face of all these realities. What a joy to realize that God has freely chosen us, each and every one. God began by choosing to send his Son Jesus to be born, live, and die as one of us. In the midst of those choices, God continues to call us and choose us. Not only does Christmas offer us a new beginning, but, because of Christmas, each and every day is a reflection of God’s choosing us. Embracing this reality as sons and daughters of God we are empowered to make choices too; for God, for one another, and for ourselves.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

December 27, 2020

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- William Deterding
- Our sympathy to the family of Betty Ferguson, *upon her recent passing*
- Our sympathy to the family of Jack Fields, *upon his recent passing*
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Vic Burgess
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- 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*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

Seminarians and all training for the Ministry

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Maria Bakalian serving in Lebanon

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



Song of the Week

Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719

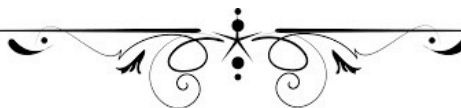
Music: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sings and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.



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)