



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 January 17, 2021

I AM *Fearfully* AND
Wonderfully MADE.

← Psalm 139:14 →

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, we pray to you with heavy hearts. So much is wrong in our world, it's hard to know what to pray for first. It is in these struggles that we need to remember you. You know us inside and out, and God, there is no where we can hide from you. Give us the courage to speak up for what we know to be true in our hearts. Give us compassion to continue loving our neighbor with acts of kindness and generosity. Most of all, give us the Spirit to have faith: faith that you are as close to us as our own breath and faith that we can make a difference in our broken world. Amen.

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>

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.

Here I Am, Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkTlj2uPl4>

Performed by White's Chapel UMC

Awesome is the Lord Most High

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9vz-AyGIoE>

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

Psalm 139

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and won-

derfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

¹⁹ O that you would kill the wicked, O God,
and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—

²⁰ those who speak of you maliciously,
and lift themselves up against you for evil!

²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?

And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

²² I hate them with perfect hatred;
I count them my enemies.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Reflection

Meditation for 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

“Searched and Known by God”

The focus of our lesson for the January meeting of the Deborah Group, one of our 2 Disciples Women groups here at FCC, was Psalm 71. This focus on one of the Psalms opened up our conversation and reflections on the book of Psalms in general. I told the group that the Psalter is one of my favorite books of the Bible. Throughout these 150 songs of faith, one can find expressions of every human emotion and experience. As a part of our discussion, we were invited to share which of the Psalms was our favorite. There were several wonderful stories of how different Psalms spoke powerfully to many of us during different times in our lives. Many of us shared particular Psalms that spoke to us, often in very painful times of our lives. A couple of us talked about the Psalm we have before us today, Psalm 139. I told the group that this is often a Psalm chosen for funerals because it shares an awareness of God's presence, even and especially in the midst of grief. As I pondered the lectionary readings for this Sunday I felt drawn to this particular passage. As we continue to make our way through COVID I believe this Psalm is especially relevant

The Psalm is categorized as a Psalm of Lament. The notes in the Revised Standard Version of the Bible indicate that this is a prayer for deliverance from personal enemies. In this Psalm God deeply searches and intimately knows us. Part of the comfort in the prayer is the awareness that God is clearly on our side against mutual enemies, but we are called to leave vengeance to God. Even and especially in the midst of trouble, we are invited to place our trust in God. The notes to the RSV Bible clearly lays out the structure of this prayer. In the opening verses, 1-18, the Psalmist appealed to God based on an awareness of God's omniscience and universal power. The first 6 verses express a sense that the Psalmist is innocent. Ever-

rything the Psalmist has done or thought is known by God. In the next few verses, 7-12, the Psalmist admitted that nothing could be done in secret because God is always present everywhere.

In verses 13-16 the Psalmist celebrated the awareness that God created the Psalmist in the womb which was expressed in term “the depths of the earth.” This meant that God has known the character of the Psalmist from the very beginning. The Psalmist was so overcome by this awareness that in verses 17-18 there was an exclamation of wonder. As this prayer came to an end in 19-24 the author shared a prayer for vindication and deliverance. It is interesting to note that the Psalmist shared the conviction in verse 21 that, as a religious leader, their enemies were also God's enemies. One of the universal qualities of the Psalter is our lack of knowledge. We do not know who these enemies were so we can claim an awareness that those enemies are much like ours today.

In these days of physical distancing and quarantining in place, isn't it comforting to remember that we are intimately known by God? As we are separated from those we love, those who know us intimately, we are invited to remember that God is still with us. There is nowhere we can go where we are not found by God. Nothing can happen to us that will separate us from God and God's love. No pandemic, no protest, no riot, or strife can separate us from God. In these fearful and challenging times such an awareness truly a gift. May you find as much comfort in these words as I do. Even as we lament our current situation, we are still invited to praise God and thank God for being in our midst, even and especially in these challenging times.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

January 17, 2021

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- William Deterding
- Jill Carpenter, diagnosed with COVID-19
- 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
- Dan Principato, complications with COVID-19, friend of the Vocaseks
- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt
- Tomi, healing prayers for cancer diagnosis, friend of Sara Lugn
- Sympathy to the family of Darrel Cox, upon his recent passing, friends of Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Sympathy to the family of Bob Topil, upon his recent passing, friends of Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Mother of Mark Schwaninger, upon recent stroke, friend of Marcia Foster

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

Ashland FCC and Rev. Bob Schofield

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:
Ignacio Salinas serving in Nicaragua

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



Song of the Week

Here I Am, Lord

Words & Music by Daniel Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and raid,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.