



# First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

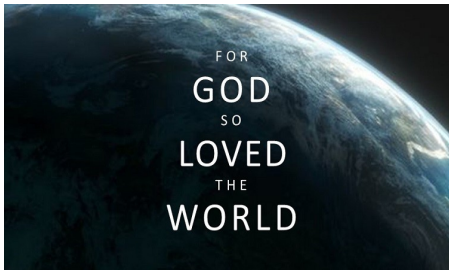
## Weekly Worship

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 March 14, 2021**



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.

### Prayer of Confession

We come to you, O God, an unfaithful people. We have sinned against you and done much that is evil in your sight. The shadows of sin dominate us, and our secret faults separate us from the light and knowledge of your presence. Have mercy on us, blot out our transgressions, forgive our iniquity, and remember our sin no more. Purge us and we will be clean, wash us and we will be purer than fallen snow. Grant us, O God, a new and right spirit. Amen.

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)

### Call to Worship

Feel free to follow along with our Call to Worship from today's live-streamed worship service.

One: We come, to offer all we have to God:

Many: Our minds, our bodies; our hearts, our hopes.

One: We come, to offer all we are to God:

Many: Our relationships with families and friends, our longing to draw closer to other pilgrims.

One: We come, to offer all we would be to God: our faith, our discipleship; our yearning to follow Jesus.

Many: We come, to offer ourselves to God: who offers life, joy, and peace in Jesus Christ.

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](http://fcclincoln.org) website to make an online donation via PayPal.

# Scripture Reading

## *Numbers 21:4-9*

<sup>4</sup> From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup> The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

## *John 3:14-21*

<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

<sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 4th Sunday of Lent*

### “Lifted Up on Our Behalf”

People seem to hate them or love them, there does not seem to be much middle ground. They inspire fascination or fear. As a child, my brother seemed fascinated with them. He obtained a very realistic looking rubber version and our mother impressed upon him the importance of NEVER having it around when her friend Ramona visited. Ramona was so terrified of snakes that my mother feared she might have a very bad response even though it was not real. His love of snakes extended to adulthood when he had a boa constrictor named Herkemer as a pet. I also found them fascinating, but that feeling was diminished when I realized they had to be fed live animals to live. I decided that was something I never wanted to see. Besides, a pet had to be furry and cuddly to really appeal to me.

In his weekly reflection on the lectionary for the Presbyterian Outlook, Rev. Roger Gench comments:

“In both the ancient and modern world, snakes were and are symbolic of our deepest, most ominous fears, but also of life, death and rebirth — indeed of healing. Psychologists have associated snakes in dreams as harbingers of transformation and new beginnings. The American Medical Association adopted the healing snake upon a pole as its logo. Jesus, too, speaks of healing in drawing this image to himself.”

What seems, at first blush, to be a very odd reference does, upon reflection, make sense. In fact, Gench went on to point out that this is a timely image. Collectively, we are all focused on the importance of vaccines. A common topic of conversation these days is the question

“have you gotten the vaccine yet?” Thankfully, we do not have to get bitten by a snake to fend off its poison, but due to the modern miracle of vaccination, we do take on a form of the disease to fight it. Scientists have learned how to take the virus, render it non-lethal, and inject it into us to fight the very disease from which it came. Just as the snake in the wilderness brought healing to those bitten, so vaccines bring healing and prevents illness.

Jesus used this archaic image from the past to present a new way of understanding his life, ministry, and upcoming death. Just as the snake was the cure for snake bite, so Jesus is the cure for what ails us as human beings. Jesus took on life as a human being to bring healing and transformation. As Gench points out, we are in desperate need of healing. “We are afflicted by greed, hatred, self-hatred, fear and apathy, both individually and collectively. Injustices and tyrannies of varied sorts plague our social, economic and political life.” The cure for our all too human afflictions is God in the human form of Jesus. Gench rightfully asked, “Why would anyone want to lift up such a horrific reality to gaze upon it? Because the exposure disrupts the power of the disease and reveals the love and justice of God in Christ as the antidote. The disease can cure the disease.”

Now the well-known 16<sup>th</sup> verse of this chapter carries a new depth of meaning. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” Christ lifted up on our behalf, like the ancient symbol of the snake, brings healing and transformation to all.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## March 14, 2021

### In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Jill Carpenter, *diagnosed with COVID-19*
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Vic Burgess
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Mildred Brockemeyer
- Rae Hope Putney

### 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*
- Phyllis Jones, *hospitalized with COVID, cousin of Dick Pickel*
- Mark Carpenter, *with colon cancer, brother of Jill Carpenter and Dick & Roxie Pickel*

### Friends:

- Our sympathy to the friends and family of Pam Larsen, *upon her recent passing, friend of Marcia Foster*
- Karen, *during cancer treatments, co-worker of Rhonda Ball*
- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, *diagnosed with glioblastoma, prayers for healing, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart*
- Tomi, *healing prayers for cancer diagnosis, friend of Sara Lugin*
- Mother of Dave Schwaninger, *upon recent stroke, friend of Marcia Foster*
- Carson Mousel, *13-year-old grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer*
- Judy Nord, *with bile duct cancer, friend of Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Cliff Cheney, *with liver cancer, friend of Elaine Parman*
- Betty Finck, *with aggressive cancer, friend of Pastor Karen*

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

Edenton Christian Church and Rev. Christy Ahmose

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Anne Gregory serving in Thailand

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

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



# Song of the Week

## *From the Inside Out*

By Hillsong

A thousand times I've failed, still your mercy remains.  
And should I stumble again, I'm caught in your grace.  
Everlasting  
Your light will shine when all else fades  
Never ending  
Your glory goes beyond all fame.

Your will above all else  
My purpose remains.  
The art of losing myself  
In bringing you praise.  
Everlasting  
Your light will shine when all else fades  
Never ending  
Your glory goes beyond all fame.

My heart and my soul  
I give you control!  
Consume me from the inside out, Lord!  
Let justice and praise  
Become my embrace  
To love you from the inside out!

Your will above all else  
My purpose remains.  
The art of losing myself  
In bringing you praise.  
Everlasting  
Your light will shine when all else fades  
Never ending  
Your glory goes beyond all fame.

My heart and my soul  
I give you control!  
Consume me from the inside out, Lord!  
Let justice and praise  
Become my embrace  
To love you from the inside out!

Everlasting  
Your light will shine when all else fades  
Never ending  
Your glory goes beyond all fame.  
And the cry of my heart  
Is to bring you praise!  
From the inside out  
Lord my soul cries out

My heart and my soul  
I give you control!  
Consume me from the inside out, Lord!  
Let justice and praise  
Become my embrace  
To love you from the inside out!