



# 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

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**Week of June 13, 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 invite you to follow along with this printed service.

### Community Prayer

O unexpected God, you never fail to surprise us. Just when we wonder who are we in the grand scheme of your great creation, you choose us to be your children. All throughout the scriptures, we see you choosing the smallest, least expected things and people to move the story forward. It gives us great strength and hope to know that this means you can use us, too. God, fill us with your Holy Spirit to accept our jobs gladly, to fulfill the purpose you have for us with joy and thanksgiving. May our faith, even if it is the size of a mustard seed, grow and bloom inside us. Help us to trust your plans for us and guide us in living in the ways of Jesus. 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.*

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

### Call to Worship

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

One: The church is the place where the broken gather:

**Many: Let us worship the One who reconciles us to one another and to God.**

One: The church is the place where sinners are welcome:

**Many: Let us worship God who, with forgiving hand, shapes us into new people.**

One: The church is the place where the lost, the least, the forgotten, the ignored gather:

**Many: Let us worship God who looks at us with the eyes of love.**

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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.  
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# Scripture Reading

## *1 Samuel 15:34-16:13*

<sup>34</sup> Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. <sup>35</sup> Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD."' <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.'

<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' <sup>5</sup> He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.' <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

## *Mark 4:26-34*

<sup>26</sup> He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

<sup>30</sup> He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 3rd Sunday after Pentecost*

### “Trusting God Who Uses the Smallest and the Least”

In his article for the Presbyterian Outlook on the lectionary texts for today, John Cleghorn, pastor of Caldwell Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC, suggested that there are two major themes in our readings for today: trust and God’s penchant for using the smallest, least expected things (and people) to advance the reign of God. These two themes weave their way through both texts. Cleghorn goes on to suggest that the main characters in these passages demonstrate “how everyday believers and seekers learn to trust a God who makes unexpected choices, works across eons and sometimes keeps secrets.”

In our passage from the Hebrew Scriptures we have the story of Samuel. Cleghorn succinctly recapped the gist of this story: “Samuel felt both personal grief over Saul’s failure and personal concern for what Saul might do if he heard Samuel was party to his replacement. Still, Samuel trusted God and played his part in a covert action to visit Jesse under the guise of making a sacrifice.” Despite his personal feelings and fears, Samuel trusted God. This radical trust was also demonstrated in our Gospel lesson, this time the trusting agent was the farmer in Jesus’ parable. The person planting the seed trusts that something would grow even though there was no immediate evidence of this reality.

Building on this foundation of trust, both passages embrace the second theme raised by Cleghorn: God’s penchant for using the smallest, least expected things (and people) to advance the reign of God. Samuel moved through the lengthy process of reviewing all the candidates for King only to learn that God had already made a choice. God’s choice, at first glance, seemed illogical and was definitely unexpected by everyone, perhaps especially unexpected by the youth selected. David was

such an outlier that he did not make the initial list. God chose the smallest, least expected, least experienced person for the position of King. Samuel’s reliance and trust in God enabled him to select the least likely candidate. Although Samuel felt connections to Saul and how things were, he also showed an openness to God’s work in the moment. He grieved over Saul and, at the same time, answered God’s call to select the next King. We see this second theme at work in our Gospel lesson as well. God chooses the smallest and least expected seed to create one of the largest bushes which serves as the heart of this parable.

As we ponder these two stories and the two themes elucidated by them we are invited to consider several things. How do we acknowledge our allegiance to the past and, at the same time, open ourselves to what God is doing now? What feelings of grief do we have as we move forward? The root of our lessons is the willingness to trust God even when we don’t know where God is leading. We are also invited to consider how God uses us as individuals and as a congregation. It is often tempting to believe that we are too small and too insignificant. However, our lessons today remind us of God’s penchant for using the smallest, least expected things (and people) to advance the reign of God. May we have the courage of Samuel to trust God wherever God leads us. And, may we persist in planting even the smallest seeds to show our trust in the presence and power of God. Nothing or no one is too small or insignificant to be used by God. We continue to be invited to trust God who uses the smallest and the least.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## June 13, 2021

### In Our Church Family:

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

### Relatives:

- Friends and Family of *Vic Burgess*
- Rick Pickel, *for entering hospice care, son of Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Tricia Gangwish, *prayers for fighting breast cancer, aunt of Lindsay Swanson*
- Phyllis Jones, *hospitalized with COVID, cousin of Dick Pickel*
- Mark Carpenter, *with colon cancer, brother of Jill Carpenter and Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Roger Christianson, *with stage 4 cancer, father of Brady Christianson*
- Kristen, *sister of Leigh Lestina*

### Friends:

- 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 Burkhardt*
- Tomi, *healing prayers for cancer diagnosis, friend of Sara Lugin*
- Judy Nord, *with bile duct cancer, friend of Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Jim Bottolfsen, *for stage 3 lung cancer, friend of the Vocaseks*

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- First Christian Church, Lincoln and Rev. Karen Moritz

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Nishan Bakalian serving in Lebanon

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



# Song of the Week

## Seed, Scattered and Sown

*Text & Music: Dan Feiten, 1987*

Seed, scattered and sown;  
wheat, gathered and grown;  
bread, broken and shared as one,  
the living bread of God.  
Vine, fruit of the land;  
wine, work of our hands;  
one cup that is shared by all,  
the living cup, the living bread of God.

Is not the bread we break  
a sharing in our Lord?  
Is not the cup we bless  
the blood of Christ outpoured?

Seed, scattered and sown;  
wheat, gathered and grown;  
bread, broken and shared as one,  
the living bread of God.  
Vine, fruit of the land;  
wine, work of our hands;  
one cup that is shared by all,  
the living cup, the living bread of God.

The seed which falls on the rock  
will wither and will die.  
The seed within good ground  
will flower and have life.

Seed, scattered and sown;  
wheat, gathered and grown;  
bread, broken and shared as one,  
the living bread of God.  
Vine, fruit of the land;  
wine, work of our hands;  
one cup that is shared by all,  
the living cup, the living bread of God.

As wheat upon the hills  
was gathered and was grown,  
so may the church of God  
be gathered into one.

Seed, scattered and sown;  
wheat, gathered and grown;  
bread, broken and shared as one,  
the living bread of God.  
Vine, fruit of the land;  
wine, work of our hands;  
one cup that is shared by all,  
the living cup, the living bread of God.

