



# 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 June 20, 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

All powerful God, Lord of the wind and the rain, our prayers to you are surrounded by the awe and wonder we have at your mighty deeds. We pray in thanksgiving that you have power over all creation to calm the storms and still the seas in our lives. Sometimes life comes at us like a rushing wave, and we are so overwhelmed, we forget our faith and fall into a panic. Fill us with your Holy Spirit to always remember to come to you first. To pray to you when our lives are in chaos, to lean on you and your Son Jesus when we feel like our boats are sinking. Only you have the power to calm the storm, and we know you will do this for your faithful children. 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: We gather in this place to worship our God:

Many: **Calm Presence in our times of confusion,  
Comforter in our nights of struggle.**

One: We gather with fellow pilgrims, as we seek to follow Jesus:

Many: **Brother to those swamped by fears,  
Friend to all overwhelmed by loss.**

One: We are brought together by the Spirit who lives in the depths of our souls:

Many: **The Serenity who travels with us on this  
up-and-down journey we call life.**

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

## *Psalms 9:9-20*

- <sup>9</sup> The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.
- <sup>10</sup> And those who know your name put their  
trust in you,  
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who  
seek you.
- <sup>11</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion.  
Declare his deeds among the peoples.
- <sup>12</sup> For he who avenges blood is mindful of them;  
he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.
- <sup>13</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD.  
See what I suffer from those who hate me;  
you are the one who lifts me up from the gates  
of death,
- <sup>14</sup> so that I may recount all your praises,  
and, in the gates of daughter Zion,  
rejoice in your deliverance.
- <sup>15</sup> The nations have sunk in the pit that they  
made;  
in the net that they hid has their own foot been  
caught.
- <sup>16</sup> The LORD has made himself known, he has ex-  
ecuted judgement;  
the wicked are snared in the work of their own  
hands.  
*Higgaion. Selah*
- <sup>17</sup> The wicked shall depart to Sheol,  
all the nations that forget God.
- <sup>18</sup> For the needy shall not always be forgotten,  
nor the hope of the poor perish for ever.
- <sup>19</sup> Rise up, O LORD! Do not let mortals prevail;  
let the nations be judged before you.
- <sup>20</sup> Put them in fear, O LORD;  
let the nations know that they are only human.

## *Mark 4:35-41*

- <sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening  
had come, he said to them, ‘Let  
us go across to the other  
side.’ <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd  
behind, they took him with  
them in the boat, just as he  
was. Other boats were with  
him. <sup>37</sup> A great gale arose, and  
the waves beat into the boat, so  
that the boat was already being  
swamped. <sup>38</sup> But he was in the  
stern, asleep on the cushion;  
and they woke him up and said  
to him, ‘Teacher, do you not  
care that we are perishing?’
- <sup>39</sup> He woke up and rebuked the  
wind, and said to the sea,  
‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind  
ceased, and there was a dead  
calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, ‘Why  
are you afraid? Have you still no  
faith?’ <sup>41</sup> And they were filled  
with great awe and said to one  
another, ‘Who then is this, that  
even the wind and the sea obey  
him?’

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 4th Sunday after Pentecost*

### “Weathering the Storms of Life”

This short passage from the Gospel of Mark presents a beloved and well-known portion of scripture. Most of us know this story and have probably seen it depicted in art and drama. Perhaps it is partly due to the fact that this is Father’s Day, but this story always brings thoughts of my father to mind. He was a career Navy man who put in 21 years of service as an enlisted man, eventually attaining the rank of Chief Petty Officer. When it came time to plan his funeral in October of 2006, this passage leapt to mind. I suspect many of you have your own thoughts and memories connected with this story.

Our passage begins “On that day, when evening had come.” In her reflection for the *Presbyterian Outlook* Barbara Chaapel, a long-time staff member at the seminary I attended Princeton, reminded the reader of the importance of this opening phrase. Jesus had been busy, he put in a full day of ministry and service through teaching and healing. He must have been exhausted! They got into the boat and he immediately fell fast asleep. The author went on to make the point that they all got in the boat and they took Jesus “just as he was.” Exhaustion and all.

The story goes on. “Jesus said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” Although it is called the “Sea of Galilee” this body of water is really the size of a large lake. Unlike the Great Lakes where one cannot see the other side, the other shore of this “sea” is visible. I remember standing on the shore of this lake in the town of Tiberias. When the day is sunny and calm it is a magnificent sight. Although one can see the other side, the opposite shore from where Jesus and his Disciples began their journey that day represented an entirely different world. The communities in which Jesus had spent his active day of ministry were predominantly Jewish. The community on the opposite side was mainly Gentile. Chaapel reminds her readers that, in a sense, Jesus was crossing a border or boundary, Jesus was making a journey to the “other” side and he invited the Disciples to join him.

We all know what happened next; on their way across the “Sea” they encounter a storm. The author goes on: “A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.” Chaapel asked: “Have you ever been in a boat in such a storm?” Thankfully I have not, but

while in that part of the world I remember riding in smaller boats on the Nile in Egypt. The river was calm, but I can imagine how terrifying it would be to experience it in a storm. On a clear and sunny day, the ride is wonderful, but one’s vulnerability is evident. Terror would fill my heart and mind just as it did the Disciples. Chaapel captured it well when she said: “What is conjured here is a cosmic storm — a storm actual or metaphoric that upends our sense of security and meaning.”

Chaapel invites us to ponder: “How do you relate to the image of the storm? Where are you experiencing storms in your life as an individual, and in our corporate life as a church, a nation and a world? What fears are associated with those storms? What do you think would calm them?” Part of the power of this story lies in our ability to answer these questions. We can all think of times in our lives, whether in the past or the present, when we have faced storms. We know of many who are currently in the middle of the lake buffeted by the wind and the waves. Most of us are still reeling as we move through the world-wide pandemic of COVID. Other storms swirl all around us, too. Thankfully we are not left on a small boat in the middle of a raging storm. The Disciples approached Jesus and “He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.” Chaapel also commented that “The Greek translated here as “be still” is closer to “be muzzled” or even “shut up!” We have no meek and mild Jesus here! He spoke with authority and the wind and the waves obeyed.

No matter how we might wish to never face the storms of life, we cannot avoid them. The beauty of this story lies in our willingness to accept that reality. But thankfully, it does not end there. As schmaltzy as it might sound, the reality is that we are not in the boat alone. Just like the Disciples, we have one another. Most importantly, God is with us through Jesus. It may not happen as quickly as we would like, but eventually Jesus tells our storms to “shut up.” May we have the courage to journey through the storms, supported by one another and accompanied by Jesus.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## June 20, 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*
- Gene Gangwish, *prayers for healing in the ICU, father of Lindsay Swanson*

### 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:

- CCN Ministry Coordinators Teresa Olberding, Paul Few, and Holly Gage

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Phyllis Byrd serving in Kenya

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

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



# Song of the Week

## How Firm a Foundation

Text: John Rippon, 1787

Music: American folk melody

How firm a foundation,  
ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith  
in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said  
than to you God hath said,  
to you who for refuge  
to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee,  
O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee,  
and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters  
I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be near thee,  
thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials  
thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient,  
shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus  
hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell  
should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

