



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

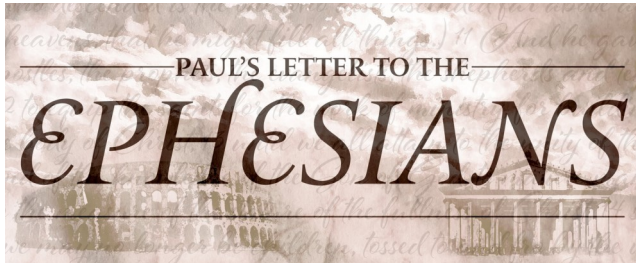
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Week of July 11, 2021



Call to Worship

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

One: Before the earth was formed, we were chosen by God to be God's people.

Many: God gathers us together that we might sing of joy and hope, as God's beloved.

One: Before the stars glittered in the night sky, we were chosen through Christ to be God's family.

Many: Christ gathers us together that we might sing the good news of redemption.

One: Before the rivers flowed to the seas, we were chosen by the Spirit to serve creation.

Many: The Spirit gathers us together that we might dance in the fields of peace with our sisters and brothers.

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 God, mother and father to each of us, we pray in thanksgiving not only for our own families and communities, but also for our family in Christ. After the past several months, we have learned just how much we need people, the longer we were away, the more sorely they were missed. Open our hearts to see those around us who aren't feeling part of a family, who are struggling alone with grief and sadness. Teach us to live in compassion with them, to feel their pain, and to offer a helping hand, a shoulder to cry on, or just a silent presence by their side. Mold us into the ever-present help that people need in this world. We pray in the name of our role model, Jesus Christ. 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.

www.fcclincoln.org/youtube

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 website to make an online donation via PayPal.

Scripture Reading

Psalms 24

Of David. A Psalm.

¹ The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,

the world, and those who live in it;

² for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴ Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.

⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.

⁶ Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
Selah

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.

⁸ Who is the King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle.

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰ Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory.
Selah

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Reflection

Meditation for 7th Sunday after Pentecost

“Destined for Adoption” by Pastor Kelly Tyrrell, Guest Preacher

The themes I want to talk about today come from verses 4 and 5 from the letter to the Ephesians. “Just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will.” First, I wanted to take a moment with the idea of predestination. It is certainly not a new one, and people feel a lot of different ways about it. Most people have heard of this from Calvinism, for whom the concept of predestination was foundational. John Calvin and his followers very much believed that some people were predestined by God for salvation and ultimately heaven. This seems to fall in line with our scripture today. However, they also believed that there were others who were predestined, before the foundation of the world as they say, for damnation and ultimately hell. This concept should give us major pause. I am one to believe that God is good, and that God believes their creation is good (remember, they said so in Genesis). So why would God foreordain some people to hell? It doesn’t add up. And the scripture today, I don’t think Paul is coming to that conclusion either. Paul’s mission was to unite Jews and Gentiles into one church of Christ. He was saying everyone was predestined to be holy, not just a select few.

As I gave this some thought, I think while God may not predestine us for hell, we sure can predestine ourselves for a kind of hell on earth. I think we have all lived through seasons of a hell of our own making, not knowing, or not trusting that God has truly chosen us for heaven. Maybe your personal hell is a job that you hate but never had the guts to leave. Maybe it is staying in an unhealthy relationship too long not knowing how to get out. I think some people live through the hell of addiction or mental health problems not seeking help because they don’t feel worthy of it. All of these hells, they are a lie of our own making. We are not predestined to live like this. As Paul says to us, we were chosen by God in Christ. Chosen, by God! How much more worthy can you get? I think this can be hard to believe or trust, it sounds too good to be

true, so we need practice on that.

Second, the theme of adoption is one that stood out to me for very personal reasons. I am adopted. I was adopted when I was a week old and I lived with my adopted parents ever since. I have never met my biological parents. I wonder sometimes if I was destined to be adopted, destined to be a product of the circumstances of my birth. My mom, Bridget, she found herself in a precarious situation when she turned up pregnant in the 11th grade. And as I understand it, their family relationship was forever fractured after my birth. Imagine being the worst thing that ever happened to someone.

But, on the flip side, I am also the best thing that has happened to someone, namely my adopted parents. I was adopted into the best family any child could ever ask for. I have learned so many life lessons from my parents, not so much from lecturing but from their living example. I am so proud to be their child. It is as though God knew exactly who my parents were supposed to be. God knew that these were the people with whom I would become the woman I have become. God knew that is was with these people that I would flourish and grow.

This is how I view our scripture today, that we are all adopted as God’s children through Christ. God knew the best parent for us: God. It is with God that we will flourish and grow. We are all adopted, and all means all. No longer are we to be limited by the circumstances of our birth. No, this is an open offer, open to all of those who desire to follow in the ways of Jesus. It is a fulfilment of our destiny. This is a way of us living into the fullness of life that God always intended for us, always, since before the foundation of the world. May we no longer create miniature personal hells on earth. Let us truly believe that God’s good pleasure and will wishes nothing but the best for us. May we feel truly adopted into God’s family as their children through the never ending love and grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

July 11, 2021

In Our Church Family:

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

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- 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
- David Sovey, prayers for successful surgery, grandson of Harold and Donna Baker
- Brother and Grandfather of Tony Flack, prayers for healing from respiratory illness and cancer, from Tony Flack
- Our deepest sympathy to Dick & Roxie Pickel upon the passing of their son Rick
- John and Joyce, for safety from wildfires, brother and sister-in-law of Jim Christ
- Lester, for safety from hurricanes, cousin of Jim Christ

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 Burkhart
- 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
- Carson Mousel, 13-year-old grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockmeyer
- Jamin and Hailey, for the safe delivery of their baby girl, from Tony Flack
- Cheryl Hanson, prayers for medical and mental healing
- Pat Haefl, prayers for the end of his cancer journey, brother of Kathy Farahbod, friends of Pastor Karen

Our Timothy's:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Nebraska City FCC and Rev. Michael Schmidt

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Andrew Larsen serving in the Philippines

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



Song of the Week

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Text: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1873

Music: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angles descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

