



# 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 July 25, 2021**



## Call to Worship

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

**One:** We come to God this day, the One who names each of us as a beloved child.

**Many:** Here in these moments together, we would recognize God dwelling in us.

**One:** We come to Christ this day, the One whose love is the bedrock of our lives.

**Many:** Here in this place of glory and grace, we would understand the One who calls us to faith.

**One:** We come to the Spirit this day, the One who would calm our fears with peace and hope.

**Many:** Here with those who are our siblings, we would seize the opportunities to serve.

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 of abundance and beloved community, we pray to you today and everyday that you wake us up each morning. Our hearts are full of praise to you for our spiritual community. Lord, help us to not become overwhelmed by the temptations of this world. May we not constantly seek status, position, or attention; may we not kill ourselves trying to keep up with the Joneses. Rather, make our hearts beat with compassion for the grieving, inspire us to humbly serve our communities, and open our eyes to the grace you bring to our everyday lives. O Holy Spirit, guide us back to you, to prayer, to the Scriptures, to our church, that we may not lose sight of what is truly meaningful and important in our lives. 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)

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

## *Ephesians 3:14-21*

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup> I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

## *John 6:1-15*

<sup>1</sup> After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup> A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup> When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

<sup>12</sup> When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

<sup>15</sup> When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.



# Reflection

## *Meditation for 8th Sunday after Pentecost*

### “Not That Kind of King” by Pastor Kelly Tyrrell

The original audience of the Gospels lived in the Roman Empire. It was rough living, with the top 3% ruling elite dominating the bottom 80%, who lived in extreme poverty. They had no ownership of their land or property, and taxes and tributes bordered extortion. Contagions spread through squalor, poor sanitation, and chamber pots cleaned in the streets. There was unclean water, poor construction, and unstable housing to live in. Socially, total conformity was expected. It was a rough life.

With this in mind, how amazing is our story today? In this story we hear of Jesus allowing a group of that lower 80% to follow him, giving them his full time and attention. Here is Jesus who looks to a child, a young boy, to feed the crowds. He feeds a huge group with food that seemingly comes out of nowhere, feeding all with no questions asked. And more than just feeding them, there are leftovers. Leftovers! For these people who were accustomed to barely enough, here there were baskets of food to spare, a true banquet of abundance.

Jesus does not ignore the marginalized or the poor. He sees their needs and meets them. Jesus does not disregard the child, children held an especially low role in Roman society, instead he used him as an instrument to create this miraculous feeding. Rome was starving people; Jesus was feeding people with reckless abandon. And he didn't ask for anything in return! This meal was free, there was no tax or tribute involved. Rome makes their people sick; Jesus healed. Rome wanted hierarchy and strict economic class structures; Jesus taught equality of all people.

This man, this Jesus, is the anti-Rome. He is literally, in every way, the antithesis to everything that Rome stands for. So, it's no surprise then that those people gathered together clamored to him, so much so that in verse 15 he is afraid that they will take him by force and make him king. King Jesus! Can you imagine? Jesus withdraws at the mere thought of it. He's no king. Well, at least, not *that* kind of king.

What would people expect from a King Jesus? Some Jewish groups, like the Zealots, were hoping for a political or military leader to free them from the domination of Rome. They would have been happy to raise an army, a resistance, to fight Rome

with martial law. For them, it wasn't so much about destroying the domination system, it was about taking it over. They wanted to turn the tables. The oppressed wanted to become the oppressor. These folks wanted to co-opt the Roman way of life but replace the Caesar with their own King, Jesus. Surely, they thought, this was what Jesus had come to do: directly challenge the Roman order. So radical, so subversive, so countercultural was his message, he must have it in for Rome.

But this wasn't Jesus's mission at all, not then and not now. Jesus didn't want to see the oppressed become the oppressor, he wanted to end oppression once and for all. Jesus's mission wasn't to turn the tables, it was to flip the script. Even when faced with a faithful, loyal crowd of followers, he does not take the opportunity to turn them into an army. He turns it into a feast of community and abundance. He may not have been the military or political leader some were hoping for, but he is the King of abundance, of beloved community, and valuing all people.

I think it would have been scary in the Roman Empire to follow that kind of King. Do you think they were afraid? Of course they were! They didn't know where their next meal was going to come from or if their baby would live to see their first birthday. But in the face of all that, they came and followed Jesus. They flocked to him, listened to his teachings, found hope for a better tomorrow. And their faith had a strong foundation: hadn't Jesus just fed the crowd with nothing but a few loaves of bread? Hadn't Jesus performed other signs, miracles, and healings all through his ministry? The people in the story had faith in Jesus because they had seen it with their own eyes. The audience hearing it had faith in Jesus because the stories passed down from generation to generation prove Jesus is worth having faith in, just as much now as he was then. Jesus is the King of seeing the needs of the poor and attending to them with no qualifications, no questions asked. That is the kind of King Jesus is.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## July 25, 2021

### In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan, temporarily in Tabitha Rehab
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Jessica Vocasek
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Vic Burgess
- Harold & 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*
- Greg Flack, *prayers to adjust to his new home with friends, from Tony Flack*
- Greg Ogren, *prayers for recent cancer surgery, son of LaVonne Ogren*

### 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 Lugn*
- 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 Brockemeyer*
- Jamin and Hailey, *for the safe delivery of their baby girl, from Tony Flack*
- Pat Haeft, *prayers for the end of his cancer journey, brother of Kathy Farahbod, friends of Pastor Karen*
- Tyson and Zeke Kohl, *prayers for the loss of their mother, from Tony Flack*

### 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:

- North Side Christian Church, Omaha and Rev. Susan Ellis

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Bosela Eale serving in Kenya

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



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## Song of the Week

### *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

Text : Edward Mote, 1834

Music: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1863

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid rock I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide his face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ, the solid rock I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay.

On Christ, the solid rock I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found,  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ, the solid rock I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.