



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

Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader

www.fcclincoln.org

info@fcclincoln.org

Week of August 1, 2021



Call to Worship

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

One: Called to lead a life that is worthy, we gather as God's people.

Many: Whatever roads we walk, whatever waters we have passed through, we share one baptism.

One: Called to model lives of service, we share a common faith in Christ.

Many: Though each of us is unique and precious to God, our hearts beat as one with hope.

One: Lead a life worthy of the One who has called you by one faith, one hope, one baptism.

Many: We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, to be fed by the Bread of life.

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

Dear Lord, we pray to you as a spiritual community, a group of your followers looking to follow in the ways of your Son, Jesus. God, it is hard not to feel that sometimes we have a void in our lives, and we use the wares of this world to fill it. When we feel lonely, sad, bored, or tired, often we turn to the wrong things to make us feel whole. But, as you know, they never work, and we are still longing for a sense of ease in our lives. Lord, direct us through your Spirit into spiritual practices that can connect us back to Jesus, the true Bread of life. For he is the only One who can fill our emptiness and make us whole. For willing hearts, we pray. 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 worshipping 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 51:1-12

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when
my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret
heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be
clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than
snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed re-
joice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within
me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your
presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from
me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

John 6:24-35

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus
nor his disciples were there, they them-
selves got into the boats and went to Ca-
pernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other
side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi,
when did you come here?' ²⁶ Jesus answered
them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking
for me, not because you saw signs, but be-
cause you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do
not work for the food that perishes, but for
the food that endures for eternal life, which
the Son of Man will give you. For it is on
him that God the Father has set his seal.'

²⁸ Then they said to him, 'What must we do
to perform the works of God?' ²⁹ Jesus an-
swered them, 'This is the work of God, that
you believe in him whom he has sent.' ³⁰ So
they said to him, 'What sign are you going
to give us then, so that we may see it and
believe you? What work are you perform-
ing?' ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the
wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them
bread from heaven to eat." ³² Then Jesus
said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was
not Moses who gave you the bread from
heaven, but it is my Father who gives you
the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread
of God is that which comes down from
heaven and gives life to the world.' ³⁴ They
said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

³⁵ Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of
life. Whoever comes to me will never be
hungry, and whoever believes in me will
never be thirsty.'

Reflection

Meditation for 10th Sunday after Pentecost

“What Are We Really Hungry For?”

The tagline for many of the Stouffers ads asks “what are you hungry for?” This could have easily been the tagline for Jesus’ encounter with the crowd in our Gospel lesson from John. Sadly, this tagline resonates for many of us today as well. Mary Lin Hudson, Professor of Preaching at Memphis Theological Seminary, said it well: “Contemporary North American culture is obsessed with food like never before.” Perhaps that explains the resonance many of us feel with Jesus’ teachings on this subject. We live in a world of hunger, both literal and spiritual. One of the effects of life during the COVID-19 pandemic has been the reality of physical hunger for many in our community, nation, and world. Plans are already underway for the annual CROP Walk this October. Members of FCC have made up teams in the past who participated in this walk to end hunger, and hopefully many of us can join a team this year or sponsor walkers. It seems that hunger has been, and continues to be, a major issue throughout human history. In Jesus’ time, hunger and poverty were the plight of many. Jesus acknowledged physical hunger when he fed the multitude which was our scripture lesson last week.

Our passage this week urges us to look deeper, “What are we really hungry for?” As we move on past the pandemic, our current economic struggles provide the perfect opportunity to ask this question. In addition to physical hunger, what are we hungry for? We address our non-physical hunger with many substances and activities. Perhaps we use shopping to fill that empty space. Many of us use work or other activities. Addictions continue to be a real struggle for many people. The number of overdoses has climbed steadily over the past few months. Many people, like me, use food to fill that emptiness. While at first glance that seems logical, often eating is more of an outgrowth of boredom or a way to deal with difficult feelings. So, we could say that, just as Jesus asked that crowd long ago, he asks us today “what are we really hungry for?”

Professor of New Testament at Memphis Theological Seminary Mitzi L. Minor articulated the

answer to this question when she pointed out that Jesus fed them physically but he was not done caring for them; he wanted to give them more. Jesus wanted to give them food that “abides” into eternity. By eternal, the author of John means life beyond death. But more is implied. “It is the very life of God which gives meaning and purpose, peace and joy, to human beings.” Hunger for meaning and purpose is the deeper issue for Jesus. Many people have struggled to address this deeper hunger for meaning and purpose. Viktor Frankl wrote about it while in a concentration camp in his book *Man’s Search for Meaning*. He saw this dynamic lived out as people struggled to deal with adversity. Both Frankl and Jesus articulated an awareness of the deep human desire for connection to God, others, and the our true selves.

Part of our calling as the Church, the Body of Christ, is to address both levels of hunger: the physical and the spiritual. We are empowered to do this as we gather around the Table, the symbol of being fed physically and spiritually. As we gather at the Table, Jesus asks, “what are you hungry for?” However, just as he did with that crowd long ago, Jesus answers that question, too, when he says “You really hunger for me, I am the bread of life.” When we depart from this Table, we are invited to take time to truly listen to the question and Jesus’ answer. We are given courage to examine our hungers, the physical and the spiritual ones, as well. We are given time and space to ask these questions and hear Jesus’ answer in worship and in the midst of community. We are also invited to take time and make space for these questions and answers in our personal devotions and prayer. Jesus urges us to take time and make space to hear the deeper questions and listen for the answers. Christ is the bread of life.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

August 1, 2021

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Jessica Vocasek
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Vic Burgess
- Harold & Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Sally Mason, *in Bryan West after bicycle accident*

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*
- 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*
- Our sympathy to the family of Pat Hoeft, *upon his recent passing, 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:

- Omaha First Christian Church and Rev. Josh Sawyer

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- G. Lou serving in China

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



Song of the Week

All Who Are Thirsty

Text & Music by Glenn Robertson and Brenton Brown

All who are thirsty
All who are weak
Just come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away
In the waves of his mercy
As deep cries out to deep, we sing

Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come

Won't you come
Won't you come

Nothing but your love for me
I am only free when you come
Nothing but your love for me
I am only free when you

Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come

