



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

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Week of August 15, 2021



Call to Worship

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

One: For cool mornings and rumbling afternoon storms, for amazing days and even more ordinary evenings, for deep friendships and shallow wading pools:

Many: We give thanks to God!

One: For the laughing God who tickles us with joy, for the broken-hearted Love who joins our struggles:

Many: We give thanks to God at all times!

One: For the Bread of heaven who feeds us hope, for the Spirit of grace who teaches us to dance:

Many: We give thanks to God at all times and for everything!

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

Today is a day that the Lord has made, let us give thanks and be glad! We pray to you with joyful hearts for all the beauty you lend to our days. Though our world is far from perfect, you teach us through your great example how to focus on the positive, the nourishing, and the delightful things all around us. We pray in thanksgiving for our God-given talents, our intellects, and the ways in which you empower us to make our world better. Guide us beyond mere knowledge into true wisdom; teach us not only what to know but what to do with that knowledge so that we may be a joy to others. Fill our hearts with your Spirit as we follow the wisdom of your Son, Jesus. 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

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: Even if you are worshipping from home, please con-
: tinue 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 fcclin-
: coln.org website to make an online donation via
: PayPal.
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Scripture Reading

Psalms III

¹ Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures for ever.

⁴ He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ They are established for ever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant for ever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures for ever.

Ephesians 5: 15-20

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

Meditation for 12th Sunday after Pentecost

“Pursuing Wisdom, not just Knowledge”

It is hard to believe that school is already beginning. The summer is basically over and the school year has begun for many and will begin soon for many others. This time of year has always been exciting for me. My many years of formal education probably demonstrates my love of learning. Although my years of formal education are over, I still consider myself a life-long learner and I know I am not alone. When we think of our schooling, we may think of all the things we learned and the subjects we mastered. We may be more aware of the subjects that seemed to have mastered us. There are many, like myself, who loved school and reveled in all that we learned. Sadly, I know there are many others who hated school and could not wait to move on to other parts of their lives. In our world today, just like the ancient world in which Jesus and Paul lived, knowledge was often emphasized over wisdom. So, in many ways, our two texts today could be seen as a bit counter-cultural. Instead of emphasizing knowledge, they emphasize wisdom. The concluding verse of our Psalm today says: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.”

The Apostle Paul took this sentiment further. The recipients of the letter to the Ephesians, including us today, were and are urged to walk the path of wisdom. The author urged those listening to or reading this letter to be “wise people.” The author used the Greek term “*sophos*” which is related to the word many of us might already know, “*sophia*.” This word is often translated as “wisdom,” but the Greek term has many meanings in addition to “wise.” It can also mean: experienced, clever, learned, or skilled. We can flesh this out a bit more. The intent here is to infer that wisdom, unlike knowledge, is more than an exercise for the head, it involves our heart and our feelings as well as our mind. Wisdom is understanding tempered by experience. Wisdom invites us to use our whole being as we learn and grow.

This contrast between knowledge and wisdom is such an important issue that it has inspired

a lot of writing and thought. One of my favorite periodicals, *Weavings: A Journal of the Spiritual Life*, dedicated an entire issue to this topic of “Wisdom.” One contributor, Wendy Wright from Creighton University, wrote an article that drew on the writings of several saints who explored the issue of wisdom. She invited the reader to consider Catherine of Sienna who drew out the component of Connectedness. Wright also cited Gertrude the Great who drew out the component of Intimacy. Julian of Norwich drew out Nurturance. Ultimately, Wright suggested that Wisdom is the journey deeper into God and self, not just the acquisition of knowledge.

Another author, Jean Blomquist, shared some additional thoughts. Our wisdom is rooted in God’s gift of wisdom to us. She went on to say that Wisdom requires rigorous self-examination and radical self-acceptance. She warned the reader that several things can block the development of wisdom, namely fear. Fear of making mistakes, fear of humiliation, fear of where Wisdom may lead us, or fear of the ultimate cost can all block us from growing in wisdom. Thankfully, she did not leave it there. She went on to suggest the kinds of things that nurture Wisdom: listening to our own bodies, nurturing humility, the realization that the development of wisdom takes time and effort, and most importantly, the nurturance of a community. Ultimately, Wisdom is realizing we do not have all the answers; it is the willingness to truly listen and trust in God and ourselves.

So, the basic distinction between knowledge and wisdom is the realization that wisdom is: grounded in God, nurtured in community, intended to build up others, and is a gift. Knowledge is important, but we are urged, as people of faith, to cultivate lives of wisdom. We can do this because God guides us through the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Christ.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

August 15, 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, *recovering after bicycle accident*

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Tricia Gangwish, *prayers for fighting breast cancer, aunt of Lindsay Swanson*
- Mark Carpenter, *with colon cancer, brother of Jill Carpenter and Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Roger Christianson, *with stage 4 cancer, father of Brady Christianson*
- 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:

- 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*
- 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:

- Peru Community Church and Revs. Ray and Becky Girard

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Rebecca Young serving in Indonesia

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



Song of the Week

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Text : Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

Music: William Marion Runyan, 1923

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail
not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!