



# First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

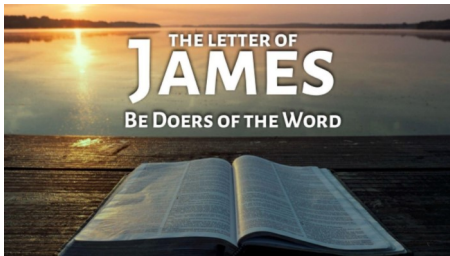
## Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

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**Week of August 29, 2021**



## Call to Worship

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

One: Every generous act of giving is a tribute to God's love for us.

Many: Lord, let us be people of generous and abundant gifts for others.

One: Be ready to listen and slow to react in anger.

Many: Lord, prepare us to be peaceful people.

One: Keep your hearts and spirits ready to serve the Lord.

Many: Lord, open our hearts to hear and respond to your words of life in ministries of hope and peace. AMEN.

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 great teacher Lord, we thank you for the opportunities you give us each day to learn something new. You surround us with people from all different walks of life from whom we can learn and gain a new perspective on the world. We pray that you keep our hearts and minds open to appreciate and value those who aren't quite like us. Humble us to see the merit in the young, the new, and the old alike. Just as we are all children of God and made in your image, so too we are all valuable, unique expressions of your love on earth. Create in us the desire to not just hear your word, but to live it out in our daily lives. And when that gets hard, encourage us to ask for help. We pray this in the name of the great teacher you sent us, Jesus. 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 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](http://fcclincoln.org) website to make an online donation via PayPal.

# Scripture Reading

## *Psalms 15*

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, who may abide in  
your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy  
hill?

<sup>2</sup> Those who walk blamelessly,  
and do what is right,  
and speak the truth from  
their heart;

<sup>3</sup> who do not slander with their  
tongue,  
and do no evil to their friends,  
nor take up a reproach  
against their neighbors;

<sup>4</sup> in whose eyes the wicked are  
despised,  
but who honor those who fear  
the LORD;  
who stand by their oath even to  
their hurt;

<sup>5</sup> who do not lend money at in-  
terest,  
and do not take a bribe  
against the innocent.

Those who do these things  
shall never be moved.

## *James 1:19-27*

<sup>19</sup> You must understand this, my  
beloved: let everyone be quick to lis-  
ten, slow to speak, slow to anger;  
<sup>20</sup> for your anger does not produce  
God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup> Therefore rid  
yourselves of all sordidness and rank  
growth of wickedness, and welcome  
with meekness the implanted word  
that has the power to save your  
souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and  
not merely hearers who deceive  
themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if any are hearers of  
the word and not doers, they are like  
those who look at themselves in a  
mirror; <sup>24</sup> for they look at themselves  
and, on going away, immediately for-  
get what they were like. <sup>25</sup> But those  
who look into the perfect law, the  
law of liberty, and persevere, being  
not hearers who forget but doers  
who act—they will be blessed in  
their doing.

<sup>26</sup> If any think they are religious,  
and do not bridle their tongues but  
deceive their hearts, their religion is  
worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure  
and undefiled before God, the Father,  
is this: to care for orphans and wid-  
ows in their distress, and to keep  
oneself unstained by the world.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 14th Sunday after Pentecost*

### “New Kids on the Block”

*Written by Pastor Kelly Tyrrell*

Scholar Timothy Cargal defines a “doer” of the word to be one who brings into reality God’s will for the world. But, how is it that Christians gathered in churches learn to be doers of the word? One way is for churches to lean on each other, to share their successes and challenges with one another to learn and grow in the doing of the word.

*We Were Spiritual Refugees: A Story to Help You Believe in Church* is the biography of a DOC church plant in Mansfield, TX. Galileo Christian Church was founded in 2013, making it 8 years old this year. Roughly a 3rd grader. First Christian Church of Lincoln, NE is 152 years old. Slightly older than the average Galapagos tortoise. What are these “new kids on the block” doing that maybe we haven’t thought of? What could the tortoise learn from the 3rd grader about being doers of the word? I think, if we listen with open hearts and minds, we might find some insights to consider. I want to highlight the two points that stood out to me the most upon reading this book. First is specificity of mission. What word is it we say we are doing, and who are we doing it with? Second is covenantal commitment. How committed are we to doing our word? Are we all in?

What “word” is it we intend to do? If doing the word is bringing about God’s will for us, what does that look like? Galileo Church answers this with a very explicit mission statement created with clarity. The church has defined their gospel, their good news, in a way that makes it clear if they are “doing” their word or not. Anytime the congregation makes a decision, they have a measuring stick: will this move us closer to or farther away from our mission? Their mission statement is also limited, by intention. No one church can be all things to all people.

First Christian Church has a longer mission statement that often gets summarized by 4 points, as you see on this bulletin: Love all, live spiritually, rejoice in hope, and show hospitality. Do you notice a difference? While all these points are worthy endeavors, they are also a little vague. What do they really mean? Who is the doer? Who is the recipient? When First Christian makes a decision, are these points clear enough to be used as a measuring stick? Specificity in mission is one thing we can learn from the new kids on the block.

They also have a different way for people to participate in the life of the church. People who attend Galileo church are offered to come into covenant with one another. They are asked to give of their material resources and expected to extend welcome to all. The covenant lasts one year, from Pentecost to Pentecost, so people can make that decision as it best fits their life. During that time, they can be called on for leadership, worship participation, or hosting a party. They are committed to making the mission a reality.

FCC certainly knows people like this. This church is upheld on the wings of angels who give, lead, clean, and so much more. God bless these loyal congregants. But how long can these wings hold us up? It has been my understanding that the same 10 to 20 angels have been giving at this church every week, every year, every decade. When do they get a well-deserved break? When are new angels going to test their wings to fly? Cultivating new leadership is an excellent way to do the word. One thing to consider is creating a covenant for these leadership positions, a written agreement so everyone knows what is expected of them, and what they can expect from others. It’s transparent, fair, and it allows all of you who attend a way to be doers of the word.

But there are also people who can’t “show up” to church. Between COVID and aging, there are more and more people who are unable to physically come to the church building. This does not make them any less doers of the word! Your prayers, your offerings, your phone calls, your cards – you are doing more than you will ever know. You are no less angels. We see you, we love you, and we couldn’t be church without you.

Now is the time to act, to do, and be blessed in our doing. And now is also a time to be in conversation with the Church universal. Sharing our stories, our triumphs, our failures, learning from one another: now is the time. Let us not look down to the new kids on the block, but rather listen to their experiences with open hearts and minds. Who knows, maybe this old tortoise can learn something new.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## August 29, 2021

### In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Jessica Vocasek
- Our sympathy to the family of Nancy Jelinek, upon her recent passing
- Vic Burgess
- Harold & Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Sally Mason, recovering after bicycle accident

### Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- 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 returning home and continued healing, 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
- Diane, prayers for healing of a broken hip and leg after a fall, mother of Doug Effle

### 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
- Jeff & Kathy Bunn, for cancer diagnosis, from Vic Burgess

### 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:

- Scottsbluff FCC and Rev. Winona Hodder

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Larry Colvin serving in Ghana

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



# Song of the Week

## *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Text : Isaac Watts, 1715

Music: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

I sing the mighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day.  
The moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord  
who filled the earth with food.  
God formed the creatures through the Word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes thy glories known.  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from thy throne,  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in thy care,  
and everywhere that we can be,  
thou, God, art present there.

