



**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

**Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz**, Pastor

**Kelly Tyrrell**, Church Administrator

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**Week of September 12, 2021**



### Call to Worship

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

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God!

Many: The law of God revives the soul.

One: The way of God rejoices the heart.

Many: The word of God endures forever.



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 each week, though we know you already see the thoughts in our minds and on our hearts. We confess that sometimes our thinking turns negative, and we want to say and do hurtful things. Even though we often keep that bottled up inside, we can ruminate on this nastiness until it eats us up. And God, you see it all! We can never thank you enough for your unending forgiveness and your encouragement for us to be better. Through your Son Jesus and the holy scriptures, you have given us the tools we need to grow in wisdom, compassion, and maturity in our speech and actions. We pray your Holy Spirit lands upon us to guide us in this growth. 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](http://fcclincoln.org) website to make an online donation via PayPal.

# Scripture Reading

## *Psalms 19*

<sup>1</sup> The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup> yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

<sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;

the decrees of the LORD are sure,  
making wise the simple;

<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring for ever;

the ordinances of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey,  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.

<sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of  
my heart

be acceptable to you,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

## *James 3:1-12*

<sup>1</sup> Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup> For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup> Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

# Reflection

*Meditation for 16th Sunday after Pentecost*

## “Sticks and Stones...”

When I was a child people often said to me “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” Obviously, all those people who uttered that bit of folk wisdom did not spend their youth being picked on and called names. I got the usual “four eyes” jabs, but the one that always stuck with me (and kind of made me laugh because it was so ridiculous) was the epithet hurled at me one day as I got off the school bus, “Braille brain.” I never really knew what that meant, I just knew that the boy hurling it at me meant to be mean and hurtful. I suspect most, if not all, of us can think of times when words have been used to wound and hurt us. Often, it is a casual statement thrown at us, and the closer we feel to the person speaking, the more the words hurt. Daily we are reminded of how wounding words can be. We have also come to realize that what we say can, and often does, haunt us the rest of our lives. When the author of James wrote this letter there was no internet, Facebook, Snap Chat, no Instagram, and no Twitter. We are surrounded by words, spoken and written.

Perhaps it is this very environment that makes the words in our scripture lesson today so powerful. In her comments for *Lectionary Homiletics*, Dominican Sister Barbara E. Reid from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago points out that this passage was a further development of an earlier admonition found in James 1:19: “Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.” Reid goes on to point out that now in chapter 3, the author applied this admonition particularly to teachers, but the implication was directed at all those who communicate primarily through speaking.

Teachers were revered in the early church as revealed by the status they get from Paul when he discussed the various forms of ministry. They hold the third position after apostles and prophets. The author of our lesson today urged those who teach and speak to be aware that we make many mistakes, and those who do not make mistakes are “perfect.” Definitely a high standard for anyone. But when the author spoke of being perfect, they used the Greek word “*teleos*.” The author did not

say this to frighten us and keep us from speaking. This word is often translated as “perfect,” but it can also mean “complete” or “mature.” The speaker is urged to be “*teleos*” in speech. It is not perfection as we often think of it; perfection in this context is not an unattainable moral ideal. The author’s intent is to imply a sense of completeness, wholeness, or maturity. Today we might call it “integrity.” One might say we are urged to be true to ourselves as a creation and image of God. The author talked about integrity in terms of consistency in speech. Reid concludes her remarks by saying that Christians cannot bless God while cursing human beings.

In the Leadership Bible NIV, the editor John C. Maxwell described four functions of our speech that can be discerned in this passage:

- ◇ Function 1: To Gauge (verses 1-2) Our speech gauges our maturity or immaturity. People will know the level of our faith by what we say.
- ◇ Function 2: To Guide (verses 3-5) Our speech guides us and others.
- ◇ Function 3: To Gird (verses 6-8) Our speech can curse or bless.
- ◇ Function 4: To Guard (verses 9-18) What kind of wisdom do we harbor inside? Does our speech protect our integrity or harm it? Do our words foster peace or demonstrate hypocrisy?

Do our words gauge, guide, gird, and guard? Sticks and stones may break our bones, and words can really hurt us. May we have the courage to follow the admonition of our author at the beginning of this letter: “Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.” Those are definitely words to live by.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## September 12, 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
- Greg Ogren, prayers for healing, still ill after surgery and treatment, son of LaVonne Ogren
- 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
- 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
- Jase & Nash Calver, prayers for healing from adenovirus, grandsons of Rich & Connie Calver
- Our sympathy to Amanda Calver, upon the recent passing of her brother

### 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 Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- Sidney First Christian Church

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Rachel Pellett serving in Jamaica

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



## Song of the Week

### Morning Has Broken

Text : Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

Music: Gaelic Melody

Morning has broken  
like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken  
like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing  
fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall  
sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall  
on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness  
where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!  
Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light  
Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation;  
praise every morning,  
God's recreation  
of the new day!