



**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

**Mark W. Miller**, Director of Music Ministries

**Sara Lugin**, Stephen Ministry Leader

[www.fcclincoln.org](http://www.fcclincoln.org)

[info@fcclincoln.org](mailto:info@fcclincoln.org)

**Week of September 19, 2021**



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL LESSON

**MARK 9:30-37**

## Call to Worship

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

One: Who is wise and understanding among us?

Many: Those who seek wisdom and understanding each and every day. Those who delight in God and meditate on God's law.

One: Come, learn more about the wisdom from above, a wisdom that yields a harvest of righteousness.

Many: O God, your wisdom is more precious than jewels! We draw near to you.



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.

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

Loving Creator of all things large and small, we praise your name for counting us as your own. It gets so hard in these times to clear the clutter from our minds and really focus on the lessons you are trying to teach us. Your love for us reminds us that we are people of value. You model for us the ways in which to value all people. Guide us to live up to your example. There are so many people in our world who could be considered "the least of these." But, in our selfishness, we do not do all that we can to add value to their lives. Women, children, minorities, anyone who lives on the margins of this America we've created; enliven us to value them as you value us, to love them as you have loved us. We pray in the name of your Son, 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)

# Scripture Reading

## *Psalms 1*

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of  
the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
<sup>2</sup> but their delight is in the law of  
the LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day  
and night.  
<sup>3</sup> They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind  
drives away.  
<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not  
stand in the judgement,  
nor sinners in the congregation of  
the righteous;  
<sup>6</sup> for the LORD watches over the  
way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will  
perish.

## *Mark 9:30-37*

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and  
passed through Galilee. He did not  
want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he  
was teaching his disciples, saying  
to them, 'The Son of Man is to be  
betrayed into human hands, and  
they will kill him, and three days  
after being killed, he will rise  
again.' <sup>32</sup> But they did not under-  
stand what he was saying and  
were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Caperna-  
um; and when he was in the house  
he asked them, 'What were you  
arguing about on the way?' <sup>34</sup> But  
they were silent, for on the way  
they had argued with one another  
about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He  
sat down, called the twelve, and  
said to them, 'Whoever wants to  
be first must be last of all and  
servant of all.' <sup>36</sup> Then he took a  
little child and put it among them;  
and taking it in his arms, he said  
to them, <sup>37</sup> 'Whoever welcomes  
one such child in my name wel-  
comes me, and whoever welcomes  
me welcomes not me but the one  
who sent me.'

# Reflection

*Meditation for 17th Sunday after Pentecost*

## “People of Value Who Value All People”

In her article for the *Presbyterian Outlook*, editor Teri McDowell Ott wondered: “Who was this child lingering around Jesus and his disciples?” What did this child hope to see or hear among all these adults? How did this child feel when Jesus put him in the middle of this group? Was the child eager, shy, or afraid? Was her heart pounding or was he squirming to get away? What was it like to have Jesus wrap his arms around her and hold her? I was struck by the fact that throughout this portion of the story, the child was referred to as “it,” no preferred gender pronouns here. Jesus was radical for his time, not only did he see the child but he brought them to him. Jesus got up close and personal. Look up the word child or children in any concordance or Bible website and I bet you will be as amazed as I was to learn how often Jesus talked about children, had encounters with children, and healed children. Although they were, and often still are, ignored and unnoticed, Jesus saw them and invites us to see them, too.

In a recent news article about COVID-19 and the vaccines, a health professional was discussing the status of vaccines for those under 12. She noted that contrary to popular belief, children are not simply “little adults.” More research will be needed to develop safe vaccines for our younger children. Even today we often overlook the children in our midst. Growing up I heard the folk wisdom “children are best seen and not heard.” I often suspected that the hope of many adults was that we children would not be seen *or* heard. Sadly, as I have gotten older, I have come to realize that this is sometimes my perspective as well. We still live in a world that does not see or acknowledge the “least of these.”

So, why did Jesus take this young child and place him or her in their midst saying: “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.” Jesus hoped to teach his disciples, then and now, about the life of a servant. I wonder if he chose this way of illustrating his point as a contrast to the childish way in which the disciples had been acting on their journey to Caperna-

um. They tried to hide it, they did not want to tell him, and they probably hoped he had not noticed their somewhat childish discussion about who among them was the greatest. While at first glance such a discussion seems childish and immature, what prompted them to act in this way? I suspect a couple of things were at work. Like many of us, they wanted to know that they were special. This may seem to be a childish or immature desire, but I suspect we never lose it. We want to know we matter and that we are unique and special.

There was a second dynamic at work as well. I suspect they struggled to really hear what Jesus was trying to teach them. It was not their status, their knowledge, or their abilities that made them special, it was their willingness to serve. Just as Jesus modelled servant leadership for them, he also invited them to be servants for one another. The disciples were focused on themselves and what they thought “success” or “being the greatest” looked like. They missed the whole point of servanthood. Jesus illustrated that the whole point of servanthood is to care for “the least of these.”

As many of you know, I spent my recent study leave attending the International Maxwell Certification training. What drew me to become part of the John Maxwell Team was the emphasis on “servant leadership.” A core value statement in this organization is: “We are people of value who value people and add value to them.” Jesus urges us to remember we are people of value, that each and every child of God is special. But it cannot stop there. As followers of Jesus, our value and success come in our willingness to value and serve others. Jesus’ illustration was intended to remind the disciples, then and now, that we find greatness in welcoming the least of these: the unnamed children and people in our midst.

*“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”*

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## September 19, 2021

### In Our Church Family:

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

### 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
- 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
- Mother of John Swanson, prayers for health as she is ill with COVID-19
- Niece of Gary Larsen, prayers for comfort and understanding as she is in hospice care with pancreatic cancer

### 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
- Charlotte Diehm, prayers for healing
- Our sympathy to the family of Bob Chitwood, upon his recent passing

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- SouthPointe Christian Church

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- RJ Howard serving in Fiji

Find more information and stories about

our Global Ministry partners at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



## Song of the Week

### Though I May Speak

### THE GIFT OF LOVE

Text : Hal H. Hopson, 1972

Music: English folk melody

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.

