



# 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

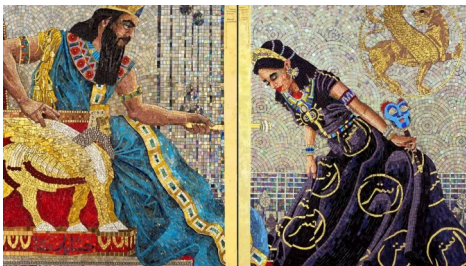
**Mark W. Miller**, Director of Music Ministries

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**Week of September 26, 2021**



## Call to Worship

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

One: We will walk this day with you, O God, and you will walk with us,

**Many: Gathering us into a community to pray for one another in all things.**

One: We will walk this day with you, O Christ, and you will walk with us,

**Many: Calling us to follow you, helping us to set aside all which holds us back.**

One: We will walk this day with you, O Spirit, and you will walk with us,

**Many: Sending us out, side by side, to serve those cast aside by the world.**

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 God, author of the story of our lives, we know that while we can only see one page at a time, you can see all our chapters at once. As we stumble through our lives one scene after another, give us the faith to trust in you, that you are a good author, and that you will end our stories well. Help us to appreciate the page we are on, not spending our lives looking back or worrying about the future. Engage us to be actors in our lives, not to sit back and let the world pass us by. Motivate us to get up, get moving, and make a difference in our lives and the lives of others. Inspire us to dive into your Word and connect with our Bibles more than just on Sunday. For our healing, learning, and renewed commitment to you and your Word we pray to you today. 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)

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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.  
: .....

# Scripture Reading

## *Psalm 124*

## *Esther 7*

<sup>1</sup> If it had not been the LORD who  
was on our side  
—let Israel now say—  
<sup>2</sup> if it had not been the LORD who  
was on our side,  
when our enemies attacked us,  
<sup>3</sup> then they would have swallowed  
us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled  
against us;  
<sup>4</sup> then the flood would have swept  
us away,  
the torrent would have gone  
over us;  
<sup>5</sup> then over us would have gone  
the raging waters.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD,  
who has not given us  
as prey to their teeth.  
<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird  
from the snare of the fowlers;  
the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped.

<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of  
the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

<sup>1</sup> So the king and Haman went in to feast  
with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup> On the second day, as  
they were drinking wine, the king again said  
to Esther, ‘What is your petition, Queen Es-  
ther? It shall be granted you. And what is  
your request? Even to the half of my kingdom,  
it shall be fulfilled.’ <sup>3</sup> Then Queen Esther an-  
swered, ‘If I have won your favor, O king, and  
if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—  
that is my petition—and the lives of my peo-  
ple—that is my request. <sup>4</sup> For we have been  
sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be  
killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been  
sold merely as slaves, men and women, I  
would have held my peace; but no enemy can  
compensate for this damage to the king.’  
<sup>5</sup> Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther,  
‘Who is he, and where is he, who has pre-  
sumed to do this?’ <sup>6</sup> Esther said, ‘A foe and en-  
emy, this wicked Haman!’ Then Haman was  
terrified before the king and the queen. <sup>7</sup> The  
king rose from the feast in wrath and went  
into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to  
beg his life from Queen Esther, for he saw  
that the king had determined to destroy  
him. <sup>8</sup> When the king returned from the pal-  
ace garden to the banquet hall, Haman had  
thrown himself on the couch where Esther  
was reclining; and the king said, ‘Will he even  
assault the queen in my presence, in my own  
house?’ As the words left the mouth of the  
king, they covered Haman’s face. <sup>9</sup> Then Har-  
bona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the  
king, said, ‘Look, the very gallows that Ham-  
an has prepared for Mordecai, whose word  
saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty  
cubits high.’ And the king said, ‘Hang him on  
that.’ <sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows  
that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the  
anger of the king abated.

# Reflection

*Meditation for 18th Sunday after Pentecost*

## “A Holy Library”

*written by Pastor Kelly Tyrrell*

Did you get to go to story time as a child? You went to the library, and sat criss cross applesauce on some colorful rug, and someone would read you a story. And if you were lucky you got someone who made up different voices for all the characters. I think sometimes as adults, we lose the magic of storytelling; of hearing a story anew, with a kind of childlike wonder. But, there is a very special way to get back to the heart of really good stories: go to the Bible. It is full of amazing stories and characters for us to enjoy and learn from. Our scripture today, from the Book of Esther, is a great example.

Esther is a rich and interesting tale, with wild and active characters. It starts with an arrogant King and a rebellious Queen. The rebellious Queen is replaced by a young, Jewish girl who, unbeknownst to her, is about to save her people in the kingdom. There is a loyal subject, who even though he is Jewish, stands by the King. We have an evil, over-confident official who gets a little too big for his britches, and the whole story ends with a feast and a festival that is still celebrated today called Purim. There is sex, danger, loyalty, love, anger, revenge, courage – it really has it all.

In fact, I'm going to suggest, rather than settling for only the one scene we get today, that you read the whole Book of Esther yourself. It's short, easy to read,

and a very, very good story. It's like a small novella stuck between lengthy historical tracts and the beginning of the wisdom books. The Book of Esther is really unlike anything else. It gives us so many lessons to work with. After you read it, the lesson which comes to the front for you will depend on you: your life, your experience, and what you bring to the story.

This is the beauty of our holy scriptures. It's not so much a holy book but a holy library, filled with stories, characters, times, and places that are so different than our own, yet so similar, too. This library holds the story of our God, how God creates and interacts with their good creation, the story of how we keep messing it up and God keeps saving us over and over again. Our bible is a holy library. There are many stories in it that you might not know, that might not get preached on Sunday, but they are valuable. There is no end to what we can learn when we dive into these pages. We can gain insight from the heroes, the victims, the villains, and even the bystanders. Each character has a purpose, each event moves the plot forward. The plot of how God acts in our lives. May we pray for the Holy Spirit to enrich our lives and engage us to be characters engaging in God's story.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## September 26, 2021

### In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Harold & Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Jessica Vocasek

### Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Greg Ogren, *prayers for healing, still ill after surgeries and treatments, 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 healing, father of Lindsay Swanson*
- Diane, *prayers for healing of a broken hip and leg after a fall, mother of Doug Effle*
- 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*
- Our sympathy to the family of Brenda Chevhar, *upon her recent passing from COVID-19, granddaughter of Alice Peterson*

### Friends:

- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, *prayers for diagnosis of glioblastoma, 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, *prayers for cancer diagnosis, from Vic Burgess*
- Charlotte Diehm, *prayers for healing*

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- Southview Christian Church and Rev. Kerry O'Bryant

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mark Knowles serving in Lesotho

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



# Song of the Week

## Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Text : Joachim Neander, 1680

Music: Stralsund Erneueren Gesangbuch, 1665

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty  
the King of creation!

Oh my soul, praise him, for he is  
thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear,  
now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things  
so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under thy wings,  
yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen  
how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord!

O let all that is in me adore him!

All that have life and breath,  
come now with praises before him!

Let the amen

sound from his people again;  
gladly for aye we adore him.

