



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

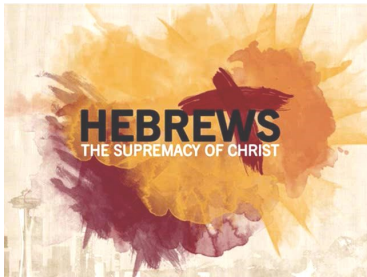
Weekly Worship

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

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Week of October 3, 2021



Call to Worship

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

One: In the great congregation, let us bless the Holy One.

Many: With songs of thanksgiving, we retell God's wondrous deeds.

One: We love the house in which God dwells and the place where God's glory shines forth.

Many: Proclaim God's name to all the world!

One: In the midst of the congregation, we praise God's holy name.



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 who lights our path and creates a way for us in the wilderness, we are overjoyed that you go before us always. It's ironic how, in this age of technology and globalization, some of us feel like we are more in the wild than ever before. But, dear God, we know that you are committed to being our God, and if we could only commit to being your people, we would no longer be lost. Send us your Holy Spirit to motivate and inspire us to follow the trail you blaze through the world. Impress upon us the importance of following your Son Jesus, who pioneered new methods of living and new ways to be in the world. May the model of Jesus's vulnerability and compassion shape our faith and the pledge we make to you as believers. That it may be so. 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

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 website to make an online donation via PayPal.

Scripture Reading

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

¹ There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

¹ One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. ² The LORD said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the LORD, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.' ³ The LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.' ⁴ Then Satan answered the LORD, 'Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives.' ⁵ But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.' ⁶ The LORD said to Satan, 'Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.'

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

⁹ Then his wife said to him, 'Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.' ¹⁰ But he said to her, 'You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?' In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels.

⁶ But someone has testified somewhere,

'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?

⁷ You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor,

⁸ subjecting all things under their feet.'

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹ but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,

¹² saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

Reflection

Meditation for 19th Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

“A Unique Kind of Pioneer”

As we enter October, the lectionary takes us to the books of Job and Hebrews. We may not be familiar with these two books, but they carry long-lasting images for many of us. As we face troubles in our lives we may find ourselves thinking we have as many struggles as Job. Or images of Jesus as a Great High Priest may linger with us from the book of Hebrews. This latter book may have been one of Alexander Campbell's favorites, but I bet many of us do not have such an affection for it. And yet, if we spent more time in this book at the back of our Bible, we may also discover the beauty inherent within it. The language is similar to the Gospel of John in its cosmic view of Christ. I suspect many of us either really love the book of Hebrews, as did Campbell, or we have not spent much time with it.

In her article for the *Presbyterian Outlook*, Shelli Latham, pastor at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, suggested that our passage from Hebrews raises two key questions: Who is Jesus and what does that mean for us? Whether we are life-long Christians or new to the faith, these are two questions relevant for us all. Our ability to answer these questions is key to our own faith and important as we think of sharing our faith with others.

Every portion of the Greek scriptures offer their own spin on this question, but Latham points out that our text today answers the question of who is Jesus by focusing on “establishing Christ as before and above all things.” She goes on to say “the author depicts the grandeur of the Son as the heir of salvation and co-creator of the universe.” The author did not stop there. Latham continues: “But this depiction of holy supremacy is coupled with vulnerability, suffering and sacrifice.” This image was unique when it was written and remains uniquely relevant today.

Latham's next observation really sparked my imagination. She describes the image of Christ as

the pioneer of our salvation. Our Disciples of Christ heritage talked a lot about the image of our Frontier Church. Leaders and founders Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone are still regarded as pioneers of the faith. They aspired to follow in the footsteps of the ultimate pioneer, Jesus Christ. The dictionary defines “pioneer” as “a person who is among the first to explore or settle a new country or area.” This can be literal or figurative. As a verb, “to pioneer” is defined as someone to “develop or be the first to use or apply a new method, area of knowledge, or activity.” The author of Hebrews hoped to inspire the faithful to perceive Christ in a new way, as a pioneer. Jesus brought salvation in a new and radically different way. Jesus became human and although he was the co-creator of the universe, he did so through suffering and sacrifice. Latham goes on to say it so well: “Pioneers shape us. The foundation that they lay in navigating uncharted territory creates a model that, for good or for ill, those who follow suit emulate.”

As we ponder Jesus as the pioneer of our faith, we are invited to consider how has this shaped our lives as believers? How does that continue to shape the church? Perhaps it is easier to think about the pioneers who have shaped our faith and shape our faith today. As Latham said, pioneers shape us for better and for worse. Just as Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone shaped the Disciples of Christ, how has their willingness to explore new uncharted territories affected us still today? I would offer that we continue to be shaped by the pioneer of our salvation who co-created the universe through vulnerability, suffering, and sacrifice. I suspect our world today is still in desperate need of such a pioneer.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

October 3, 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*
- 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*
- Our sympathy to Tom Mason and family, *upon the recent passing of his father Glenn Mason*

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 Lugin*
- 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*
- Kristen Moore, *daughter-in-law of Ken & Susan Moore, wife of James, prayers for healing from liver transplant*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Unadilla Christian Church and Rev. Sandy Denton

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Raul Santiago-Rivera serving in Puerto Rico

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



Song of the Week

Fairest Lord Jesus

Text : Münster Gesangbuch, 1667

Music: Silesian folk melody

Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish,
thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer;
Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter;
Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior,
Ruler of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

