



# 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

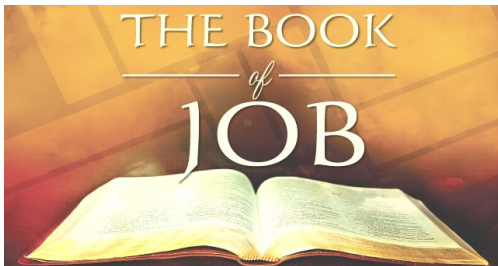
**Mark W. Miller**, Director of Music Ministries

**Sara Lugn**, Stephen Ministry Leader

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

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

**Week of October 10, 2021**



## Call to Worship

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

**One:** In God's mercy, we are rich.

**Many:** In Jesus' love, we are welcomed.

**One:** In the Spirit's peace, we are satisfied.

**Many:** Come; let us worship our savior and our king!



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 never leaves us, how amazing it is that when we read your holy word, we see a reflection of ourselves. It seems as though what it means to be human, to live in the world with one another never changes. God, we are all struggling with our own problems right now, from family relations and our jobs, stress and anxiety, illness and grief. It is so easy to feel so alone during these times, isolated even. And even the people we reach out to, they can't really understand what we are going through. But you can and you do. You are the God that stays by our side, that knows our every thought, hears our every prayer, and sustains us with faith and hope. We give you thanks and praise that by your mercy and grace you remain our constant companion. 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

## *Job 23:1-17*

Then Job answered:

- <sup>2</sup> 'Today also my complaint is bitter;  
his hand is heavy despite my groaning.  
<sup>3</sup> O that I knew where I might find him,  
that I might come even to his dwelling!  
<sup>4</sup> I would lay my case before him,  
and fill my mouth with arguments.  
<sup>5</sup> I would learn what he would answer me,  
and understand what he would say to me.  
<sup>6</sup> Would he contend with me in the greatness of  
his power?  
No; but he would give heed to me.  
<sup>7</sup> There an upright person could reason with  
him,  
and I should be acquitted for ever by my judge.
- <sup>8</sup> 'If I go forward, he is not there;  
or backward, I cannot perceive him;  
<sup>9</sup> on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;  
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.  
<sup>10</sup> But he knows the way that I take;  
when he has tested me, I shall come out like  
gold.  
<sup>11</sup> My foot has held fast to his steps;  
I have kept his way and have not turned aside.  
<sup>12</sup> I have not departed from the commandment of  
his lips;  
I have treasured in my bosom the words of his  
mouth.  
<sup>13</sup> But he stands alone and who can dissuade  
him?  
What he desires, that he does.  
<sup>14</sup> For he will complete what he appoints for me;  
and many such things are in his mind.  
<sup>15</sup> Therefore I am terrified at his presence;  
when I consider, I am in dread of him.  
<sup>16</sup> God has made my heart faint;  
the Almighty has terrified me;  
<sup>17</sup> If only I could vanish in darkness,  
and thick darkness would cover my face!

## *Hebrews 4:12-16*

<sup>12</sup> Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

<sup>14</sup> Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 20th Sunday after Pentecost* “Coping with Suffering”

In her book *A Course in Weight Loss* Marianne Williamson says, “It’s one thing to know that suffering is an inevitable part of the human journey, but it’s another thing altogether to learn how to cope with it.” Her words really resonated for me as I read them. We live in a time when we are keenly aware of the suffering all around us. I suspect each of us can name several people we know who are experiencing some level of suffering. We may be that person ourselves. While suffering has its universal qualities, there is also something about it that is quite individual and uniquely personal. Sadly, isolation is often a component of suffering. What we define as suffering for ourselves may not be so for others. There is also the sense that we experience suffering so uniquely that no one can truly enter it with us.

As most of you know, I have been dealing with knee pain and lack of mobility for the past couple of months. Everyone in my life has been quite compassionate and caring, and for this I am truly grateful. But, I have to admit, during those sleepless nights when the pain kept me awake and no comfortable sleeping position could be found, I felt terribly alone and isolated. I flashed back to my mother as she dealt with chronic pain and I felt a new level of empathy for her. As I have moved through these struggles, and as an aside the pain is getting better after my recent surgery, I found myself wondering “where can one turn during such difficult times?”

The obvious answer, for those of us who are people of faith, is God. I have to admit that I cried out to God during many nights as I struggled with the pain and my fears that it would never end. In addition to prayer, we are invited to turn to scripture, the unique revelation of God. So, I have to say that I found it ironic when the lectionary took us to the book of Job as we began the month of October. Initially, this might seem to be a good place to go as one moves through suffering and pain, however, I was not so sure. While I admit that the book of Job has some beautiful and poetic sections, I find myself disliking most of the characters in this book. At first glance, no one comes off well in my opinion. Although it appears to be affirming in the beginning, God basically throws Job to the lions. Satan, the Adversary, wants to use Job to make a point and God

lets it happen. Job’s family doesn’t come off too well either; most of his family dies and the one remaining family member, his wife, urges Job to curse God and die. And what about his friends? Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar spent a great deal of time in conversation with Job, but it feels to me as though none of them really empathize with Job’s suffering.

And then there’s Job! I have always found him a bit annoying. He seems to take whatever is thrown at him. But I have to admit, my feelings about Job might be softening. As one moves through this book, it becomes clear that things are shifting and changing for all the main characters. It is so tempting to jump to the end, when Job’s suffering ends and he gains a life more bountiful than the one he had beforehand. Sadly, when we do that we miss the whole point of the book: the inner transformation of Job. I think part of the author’s goal in telling this story is to help us reflect on the journey so well-articulated by Williamson: “It’s one thing to know that suffering is an inevitable part of the human journey, but it’s another thing altogether to learn how to cope with it.”

A colleague shared in a lectionary study group that Job’s suffering and the challenges from his friends pushed Job to rethink his ideas about God. There is a radical re-orientation that happens for everyone in this story. Job became more able to experience the greatness of God. Job’s earlier perspective was that God was removed from the cares of human beings and that our individual suffering does not matter. In the midst of suffering, it is difficult to believe that one is not alone. It is a challenge to believe that God and others are with us. The reality of our suffering may not change, but we are not as alone as we might feel. A parishioner recently sent me a card that said: “Recovery’s hard work, but you’re not alone. Hope you know you’re in the thoughts of many.”

Perhaps that is the most significant message in the book of Job; just as Job was not abandoned by God, neither are we. God and others journey with us through our suffering. Hopefully, that reality will enable us to cope with our own suffering and not turn away from the suffering of others.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## October 10, 2021

### In Our Church Family:

- Vic Burgess
- Arlene Heimer
- Harold & Donna Baker
- Marvin Thurber
- Polly Putney
- William Deterding
- 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*
- Lorie Chrastel, *Mark Carpenter's fiancée, prayers for recovery from a stroke*
- Roger Christianson, *with stage 4 cancer, father of Brady Christianson*
- Gene Gangwish, *prayers for comfort upon returning home, 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*
- Emily Carpenter, *aunt of Carpenters & Pickels is in hospice due to Covid in May*

### Recent Deaths:

- Georgann Jordan
- Glenn Mason, *father of Tom Mason*
- Niece of Gary Larsen
- Brenda Chevhar, *granddaughter of Alice Peterson*
- Judy Nord, *friend of the Pickel Family*

### Friends:

- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, *prayers for diagnosis of glioblastoma, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart*
- 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:

- Verndon Christian Church and Rev. Daniel Spencer

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Jeffery Mesendiek serving in Japan

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



# Song of the Week

## *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Text : Robert Robinson, 1758

Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Come, thou fount of every blessing;  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

