



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

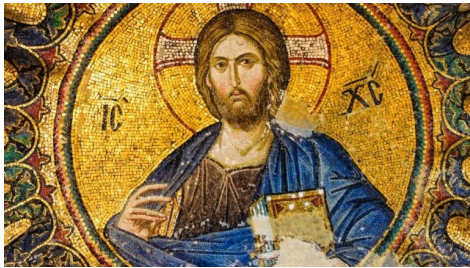
Weekly Worship

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

Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, Pastor
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Week of October 17, 2021



Call to Worship

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

One: Servants of God, lift up your heads -

Many: That the Lord of life may behold our eyes!

One: Servants of God, lift up your hands -

Many: That the Lord of life may bless our works!

One: Servants of God, lift up your hearts -

Many: That the Lord of life may abide within!

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

God, ruler of all, how can we ever thank you enough for the gift of your Son, Jesus? Not only did he befriend us and suffer by our side when he walked on earth, but when he came back to us as the Christ, he opened up a whole new world. Of course, we praise you for giving us our friend and teacher, but sometimes we forget to express our gratitude for Jesus Christ, our great high priest. What a reminder of who and whose we truly are! And God, what we know about you, what we have learned about you from your Son, shows us that you love us so much that we, too, are the great priests of our own lives. You long to be in relationship with us, and us with you, and no one need stand in our way. For this trust, love, and encouragement, we pray, 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

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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.
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Scripture Reading

Job 38:1-7

¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

² ‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?’

³ Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴ ‘Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?’

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone

⁷ when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

Hebrews 5:1-10

¹ Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³ and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴ And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

‘You are my Son,
today I have begotten you’;

⁶ as he says also in another place, ‘You are a priest for ever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.’

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.



Reflection

Meditation for 21st Sunday after Pentecost “Part of the Priesthood of All Believers”

A priest, a rabbi, and a minister walk into a bar... In the Reformed strand of the Protestant tradition, that may be the only reason we think much about priests. They may only appear as the subject of jokes or as friends and colleagues. As heirs of the Protestant Reformation, we follow in the tradition of the "Priesthood of all Believers." And yet, we have this key passage from Hebrews that talks about Jesus as the Great High Priest. What relevance can this image have for us today? As I mentioned in a sermon a couple of weeks ago, the author of the letter to the Hebrews wanted those reading it and hearing it to ask two key questions: who is Jesus and why does that matter for us today? Our passage today has a lot to teach us about Jesus and our call to the "Priesthood of all Believers."

While the title of priest is the norm in Roman Catholicism and Orthodox Christianity, it is a title used in the Episcopal/Anglican traditions as well. In the Reformed tradition, we focus more on function when discussing issues related to ordained or commissioned leadership in the church. Those in pastoral leadership here at FCC are designated as "pastor" which comes from the Latin for shepherd. Our Seminarians in Residence, Kelly and Leigh, as well as myself use the title pastor because it describes our role as shepherds of the flock. Sometimes our tradition might use the term preacher to emphasize our role in preaching and leading worship, but most of us prefer the title pastor. The author of our letter to the Hebrews chose an image that resonated for those to whom it was written. A dictionary definition of the word "priest" is one authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion especially as a mediatory agent between humans and God. At the time in which this author wrote, priests were seen in both Judaism and pagan traditions. Priests presided in the various temples of the pantheon of gods worshipped by Romans throughout the world.

So, the author wanted to describe the ultimate priest, Jesus. The author did this by drawing on an image that may puzzle many of us. One question

that might immediately arise for many of us is: who on earth is Melchizedek and why is Jesus a priest in the order of this unknown person? I have to confess, I did not know the answer to that question so I had to look him up in the *Oxford Guide to the Bible*. It turns out that Melchizedek was one of the first priests mentioned in scripture. He arose early in the Bible in the 14th chapter of the book of Genesis. Melchizedek met the Patriarch Abraham shortly after a battle and showed him hospitality by giving him bread and wine. Melchizedek also gave Abraham a blessing from God. Melchizedek demonstrated the best qualities of the priesthood, showing hospitality and giving a blessing from God.

Melchizedek set the pattern for the priesthood that has ramifications today. With the use of this image, the author of this letter highlighted the best qualities of Jesus as the Great High Priest in the order of this first priest. In addition to raising the priestly qualities of hospitality and blessing, the author went on to share that Jesus exemplified other qualities of priesthood, namely gentleness, compassion, and mercy. Jesus also served others through the awareness of his own weakness and suffering.

As those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus, as part of the Priesthood of all Believers, we are called to exemplify all these qualities as well. We are reminded that we all have direct access to God with only Christ as our mediator. Just as Jesus was called to serve by God we also serve because we have been called. We serve with an awareness of our own weakness and suffering which enables us to connect to the weakness and suffering of others. Like Melchizedek and Jesus, we are invited to share hospitality and blessing. What a joy and privilege it is to serve in the Priesthood of All Believers and to serve in the order of Melchizedek and Jesus.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

October 17, 2021

- In Our Church Family:**
- Vic Burgess
 - Arlene Heimer
 - Marvin Thurber
 - William Deterding
 - 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*
- 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
- 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:

- Weeping Water FCC

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- All those serving in Israel/Palestine

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

O Lord My God *How Great Thou Art*

Text : Stuart K. Hine, 1953

Music: Swedish folk melody

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!