



# 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 31, 2021**



## Call to Worship

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

**One:** Today is Reformation Day, a day when we think about the sacrifices made and the risks taken by Martin Luther and other reformers in the 15th and 16th centuries.

**Many:** We celebrate the Church that was, the Church that is, and the Church that will be.

**One:** History has proven that we may never be able to predict where our journey through life may take us, but that our journey will always be filled with God's grace.

**Many:** Let us journey together! Let us worship God!

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 of the past, present, and future, your patience with us and your never ending grace are gifts more precious than gold. It feels like you are over us, among us, and ahead of us guiding our efforts to worship you and to be your Church. When our faith falters, you are there. When we get too tangled up in the world, you are there. When we step out with courage to hold each other accountable, you are there. God, as your children, you know we are good, and how grateful we are for the second, third, and fourth chances you give us. Thank you for letting us reform and transform, and for knowing that we'll never be completely done changing. We pray all of this thanks to you, Almighty God, who never leaves our side. 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

## *Psalm 46*

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the  
earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart  
of the sea;
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its  
tumult.  
*Selah*
- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad  
the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not  
be moved;  
God will help it when the morning  
dawns.
- <sup>6</sup> The nations are in an uproar, the king-  
doms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
*Selah*
- <sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the LORD;  
see what desolations he has brought on  
the earth.
- <sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the  
earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.
- <sup>10</sup> 'Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth.'
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
*Selah*

## *2 Timothy 3:14-17*

- <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue  
in what you have learned  
and firmly believed,  
knowing from whom you  
learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how  
from childhood you have  
known the sacred writ-  
ings that are able to in-  
struct you for salvation  
through faith in Christ  
Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All scripture is  
inspired by God and  
is useful for teaching, for  
reproof, for correction,  
and for training in right-  
eousness, <sup>17</sup> so that every-  
one who belongs to God  
may be proficient,  
equipped for every good  
work.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 23rd Sunday after Pentecost*

### “Our Reformation Roots”

by Pastor Kelly Tyrrell

On Reformation Sunday, many Protestant churches gather to remember the history and events that led up to the Protestant Reformation. It was a young monk in the German church, Martin Luther, who came to feel as though the church was terribly corrupt, and even though this was the church he had devoted his life to, he felt that something had to change. Luther articulated his many complaints in his 95 *Theses* document and on October 31, 1517 nailed it to the Wittenberg University library doors. By 1521, these writings led to his conviction as a heretic, which in turn led him to live on the lamb for many years to come. What is it about us Christians that we just love to follow people who get tangled up with the law?

Regardless of Luther's legal status, the impact of his work is irrefutable. Only a year after being deemed a heretic, he translated the whole bible into German, allowing people to experience it for themselves for the first time. Next came a German language mass. Finally, people could understand the liturgy in their own tongue. Luther's concept of the Priesthood of All Believers liberated the laity to think for themselves and participate in worship. Luther's notion of *sola scriptura*, the scripture alone, set the Word of God as revealed in the bible as paramount to faith over ecclesiology, or the traditions of the church. We know this part of the story; these are our roots.

The Statement of Faith and Identity for the Disciples of Christ is ripe with Reformation language. We believe that scripture is the authoritative resource for the church and people are to interpret the scriptures for themselves (but not by themselves). We do not wish to impose our opinions on others as a litmus test for legitimate Christianity, as though our denomination tells the whole story. No, the whole church tells the whole story. Disciples hold fast to the Priesthood of All Believers and include the laity in all forms of worship. No ordination or education

places one person above another. And while all Disciples churches enjoy congregational freedom, they are still in loving covenant with one another, respecting each other's views and differences, as well as our commonalities.

These values and principles didn't just happen! They were cultivated and refined through hundreds of years of Christian discernment. We should be so grateful for the church we get to have! What thanks we should have for our English language bible, our Christian education that encourages us to ask questions, our open communion table, the trust and empowerment we have in ourselves and each other to be agents of the church. For me, I see a connection between this and our New Testament selection for today. I know 2 Timothy is not a traditional Reformation text, and I am almost certain I am taking it out of context. And I am okay with that. To me, firmly believing from our childhoods, trusting the people we learned from, and respecting all scripture as sacred and able to instruct us – that is Reformation talk. Learning discipleship and faithfulness from the whole scripture, not just the parts we are “allowed” to hear – that is Reformation talk. For everyone belonging to God to be proficient to do God's work – that is Reformation talk.

Certainly, Luther wasn't perfect, and neither are we, but the Body of Christ is made up of imperfect people. He wasn't just making this stuff up! The DOC is living proof that these radical, heretical ideas have stood the test of time and are creating new and faithful followers of Jesus. Did the Reformation do it all? No. Are we still reforming and changing today? Yes! But we cannot forget nor deny the importance of this day over 500 years ago that started the ball rolling, which paved the way for the church we get to be today. That the Holy Spirit keep us humble in appreciation, we pray.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## October 31, 2021

### In Our Church Family:

- 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*
- 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, *praises for recovery, 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*

### 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 Bottolfson, *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:

- Nebraska Regional Minister Chris Morton

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Maria Bakalian serving in Lebanon

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



# Song of the Week

## *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

*Text & Music by Martin Luther, 1529*

A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing.  
Our helper he, amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
doth seek to work us woe.  
His craft and power are great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right man on our side,  
the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he.  
Lord Sabaoth his name,  
from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed  
his truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him.  
His rage we can endure,  
for lo, his doom is sure.  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,  
no thanks to them, abideth.  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this moral life also.  
The body they may kill;  
God's truth abideth still.  
His kingdom is forever.

