



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 November 7, 2021



All Saints

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 of Abraham and Jacob, of Deborah and Ruth, we pray on this Sunday in memory of the saints in our lives and our church. We could never be where we are without those who set straight the path before us. While these memories can come with grief and sadness, they also come with a profound gratitude. Lord, we know that you placed these people in history in just the right place and time to create the legacy that we get to live today. In our current world, give us the courage to make the choices that are not only good for us, but that think ahead to the future. We ask you to give us foresight and optimism to live lives that will lead to prosperity and peace for many generations to come. That you grant us your mercy as we try, 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

Call to Worship

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

One: See how God loves us!

Many: God loves us enough to swallow death forever.

One: See how Christ loves us!

Many: Christ loves us enough to share our loss and grief.

One: See how the Holy Spirit loves us!

Many: The Holy Spirit loves us enough to offer us words of hope we can trust.

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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.
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Scripture Reading

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

¹ Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, 'My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you.' ² Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing-floor. ³ Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing-floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.' ⁵ She said to her, 'All that you tell me I will do.'

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, 'Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.' ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. ¹⁷ The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, 'A son has been born to Naomi.' They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Revelation 21:1-6

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴ he will wipe every tear from
their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be
no more,
for the first things have passed away.'

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' ⁶ Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

Reflection

Meditation for 24th Sunday after Pentecost “Grateful for the Saints in Our Lives”

I love the story that unfolds in the book of Ruth. Part of my affection probably stems from the fact that it was the only book in the Hebrew Bible that I was able to study in the original Hebrew. Since it is a short book, we were able to study it in my seminary Hebrew class and complete our study in one semester. I also love this short book of the Bible because it is told from the rare viewpoint of women. Ironically, God is rarely mentioned anywhere in this book, however, it is clear that a life grounded in God is the thesis of this story. So often we fail to recognize that the story is not the only central issue, it is also critical to consider who tells that story. This latter reality really hit home for me as I prepare to see the musical “Hamilton.” As Teri McDowell Ott says in her commentary on Ruth for the *Presbyterian Outlook*, ““Hamilton” makes it clear whose voices aren’t included in the dominant narrative of American history and that it matters who tells your story.” As we reflect on the story of Ruth, we, too, are invited to consider the storyteller along with the story she told.

Although many couples choose a reading from an earlier part of this book for their weddings, this is really a story of tragedy and resilience. Ironically, the main character and narrator of this story was Ruth, the daughter-in-law of Naomi. How many mothers-in-law come off so favorably in the eyes of their daughter-in-law? The story begins in Israel with the move of Naomi and her husband Elimelech to the land of Moab. Things start off well; Naomi and her husband have two sons who find wives in their new home. Sadly, tragedy sets in and Naomi’s husband and both sons all die, leaving Naomi and her two daughters-in-law alone and without re-

sources or protection. With nothing to keep them in Moab, Naomi decides to return to her own country hoping to begin again. Ruth chooses to make the journey with Naomi and they hope to build a new life together. As Ott points out in her commentary, “Naomi and Ruth act on a plan to secure their futures with the little power and resources they have.”

As the story draws to a close, we learn that Ruth and Naomi were able to secure not only their own future, but they create a path that will lead into the future for generations. While there are some troubling elements to this story around how all this happens, the basic theme is the way they worked together to create a legacy and a future.

I wonder how many of us can think of Ruths and Naomis in our own lives. On this All Saints Sunday, we take time to celebrate those in our lives who, like Ruth and Naomi, shared our journeys and helped us secure our futures to prepare for an ongoing legacy. Today we celebrate those saints from our community who have died in the past year. As we do so, we are also invited to recognize and celebrate the lives of those we have known who have been important parts of our journey. Together, Ruth and Naomi laid a foundation for their own lives and gave birth to a son that would be the ancestor of one of the most loved biblical characters, David. Like Naomi and Ruth, may we hold tight to one another in the good times and the bad. May we be strengthened by the saints in our lives and sustained by the presence of God.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

November 7, 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 sympathy to the family of Jerry Mosier, *upon his recent passing, long time Disciples member*

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 Board, Committees, and Staff

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Sean Amato serving in Egypt

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

Song of the Week

For All the Saints

Text William Walsham How, 1864

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

For all the saints
who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith
before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus,
be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock,
their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain
in the well-fought fight;
thou, in darkness drear,
their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion,
fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle;
they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee,
for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce,
the warfare long,
steals on the ear
the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again,
and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds,
from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams
in the countless host,
singing to Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

