



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 November 21, 2021



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 who was, and is, and is yet to come, it is so hard for us to wrap our minds around how you work. You simply do not exist in time and space like we do; you are the beginning and the end of everything. Lord, to know you created everything in the past, that you are present in everything we experience today, and that you will always be by our sides in the future: there is no greater gift than this! Remind us that you are the King of our hearts, lives, time, and talents. It is through you that we are a part of something greater than ourselves, reminding us that we are not the center of the universe. You are! For the community of faith we receive through your church and the grace we receive through your Son, we give you thanks and praise. 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: We have chosen to be here, where God remembers us.

Many: God comes to us, the One who was and is to come.

One: Like the first glimpses of the sun peeking over the horizon:

Many: God comes to us, the One who was and is to come.

One: Like the moon lighting our way on a cloudless autumn night:

Many: God comes to us, the One who was and is to come.

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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

Psalm 132:1-12

- ¹ O LORD, remember in David's favor
all the hardships he endured;
² how he swore to the LORD
and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
³ 'I will not enter my house
or get into my bed;
⁴ I will not give sleep to my eyes
or slumber to my eyelids,
⁵ until I find a place for the LORD,
a dwelling-place for the Mighty One of
Jacob.'
- ⁶ We heard of it in Ephrathah;
we found it in the fields of Jaar.
⁷ 'Let us go to his dwelling-place;
let us worship at his footstool.'
- ⁸ Rise up, O LORD, and go to your resting-
place,
you and the ark of your might.
⁹ Let your priests be clothed with right-
eousness,
and let your faithful shout for joy.
¹⁰ For your servant David's sake
do not turn away the face of your
anointed one.
- ¹¹ The LORD swore to David a sure oath
from which he will not turn back:
'One of the sons of your body
I will set on your throne.
¹² If your sons keep my covenant
and my decrees that I shall teach them,
their sons also, for evermore,
shall sit on your throne.'

Revelation 1:4b-8

⁴ John to the seven churches
that are in Asia: Grace to you and
peace from him who is and who
was and who is to come, and from
the seven spirits who are before his
throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the
faithful witness, the firstborn of
the dead, and the ruler of the kings
of the earth.

To him who loves us and
freed us from our sins by his
blood, ⁶ and made us to be a king-
dom, priests serving his God and
Father, to him be glory and domin-
ion for ever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the
clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes
of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ 'I am the Alpha and the Omega',
says the Lord God, who is and
who was and who is to come, the
Almighty.

Reflection

Meditation for Christ the King Sunday “Who is, and Who was, and Who is to Come”

Recently, I was able to finish reading *Star Wars Episode 1-The Phantom Menace* in Braille. Although I am an avid Star Trek fan, I do enjoy Star Wars as well. One of the central elements that binds the Star Wars universe together is the “Force.” The Force is an intangible but powerful element that binds all living things together. The Jedi Knights are particularly adept at working with the Force, but it is present in all living things. There are the skeptics who do not believe in the Force, but for believers, the Force binds all things together. In his article for *Lectionary Homiletics* on preaching the text from Revelation, Robert Kysar from Candler School of Theology in Atlanta commented that like the Force in Star Wars,

“In a sense, that is what Christ’s reign does for us. It glues our lives together with those of the past and the future. It provides continuity among the past, present, and future. There is really only one thing that holds steady amid the changes of our world, and that is Christ’s reign. His reign connects history and eternity...”

We live in a time that seems fragmented and disjointed. There seems to be a greater awareness of our differences: political, cultural, racial, and economic. We seem to have lost touch with the “Force” that binds us together. The deeper issue for me is the sense of hopelessness that is cultivated in such an environment. Although we regularly say we live in “unprecedented times,” we really do not. While the present conditions of life in a worldwide pandemic are unusual, human beings have struggled to find hope throughout our history. The author of the last book of our Bible knew this; he wrote to relatively new Christian communities who were dealing with the oppression of the Roman world. Many faced martyrdom for their beliefs. Hopelessness was as common a feature of life as it is for many today.

Just as those in the Star Wars universe found hope in the power and presence of the Force, the early Christians found hope in these words from Revelation. On the threshold of the season of hope we call Advent, we are invited to find hope in these words as well. In the same edition of *Lectionary Homiletics*, another contributor, Steve MacArthur from Sterling College in Kansas, noted “Whatever happens in nature, in history, and in any individual’s life happens under the all-embracing providential sovereignty of God in Christ.”

Today we conclude the church year and prepare to begin a new one next week with the beginning of Advent. This Sunday is traditionally called Christ the King or Reign of Christ Sunday. On this Sunday, we are invited to remember the cosmic nature of Christ and what his presence in our world and lives means on a grander scale. Although we feel like our times are unprecedented and the circumstances of our life are unique, we still need to know that we are part of something greater than ourselves. We are part of God’s reign now. As part of that reign, we are bound to the past and the future. We embody the reign of God in our daily lives as we love one another and show grace. We embody, often briefly, the peace that only God brings. This reign of God is the one unchangeable reality of life.

But, there is more to it than simply finding comfort and hope. The author told those early Christians, and so tells us, that our hope is based on the reality that God, through Christ, calls us to manifest this reign of God in our lives today. God, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, brings us into the Kingdom of God as priests called to serve God and one another. We are called to embody hope. Just as the Jedi Knights were able to work with the Force, we are now empowered to be agents of hope and comfort. We are called to manifest our hope and confidence in God “who is and who was and who is to come.” There really is no greater “force” than that!

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

November 21, 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*
- 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*
- Gerald Deterding, *prayers for healing from cancer and pneumonia, father of William Deterding*

Friends:

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

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Prayers to our Nebraska Chaplains

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Kahala Cannon serving in Eswatini

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1746

Music: John Darwall, 1770

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
and triumph ever more.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Our Savior, Jesus, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
For Christ, the Judge, shall come
and gather all the saints
to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

