



# First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

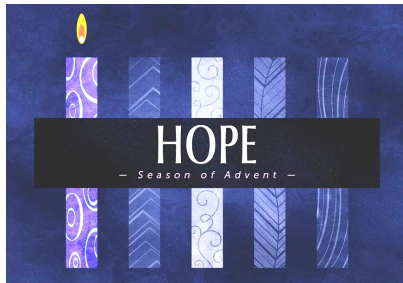
## Weekly Worship

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 November 28, 2021**



## Call to Worship

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

**One:** The days are surely coming when God's promises shall be fulfilled.

**Many:** When our love for one another will increase.

**One:** The days are surely coming when God's promises shall come true.

**Many:** When God will strengthen our hearts in humility and holiness.

**One:** The days are surely coming when God's promises are realized in us.

**Many:** When we will walk the paths of faithfulness and steadfast love.

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

As we enter this season of joyous anticipation, O God, allow us to look backward as well as forward to your coming into our world. May we take the time to journey with our ancestors; time to see through their eyes how you have been involved and engaged with our world since the very beginning. Lord, pour your never ending Hope over us. Fill us with your Spirit to approach this new church year with optimism. Encourage us to focus on what we do have, rather than what we don't - to see what we can do, rather than what may seem impossible. Dear God, through you all things are possible. Strengthen us while we wait, patiently and with love. 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

## *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

## *Isaiah 7:10-16*

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

# Reflection

## *Meditation for Advent One: Hope* “The Young Woman Shall Bear a Son” *written by Pastor Kelly Tyrrell*

Advent is a time of waiting. But rather than ask, “What am I waiting for?” today I want to ask, “What were *they* waiting for?” They, the writers of our sacred scriptures and the original audiences hearing these texts. Both readings today come from the Hebrew Bible, so we are going to talk about what people were waiting for some 2,700 years ago.

Christians often read the 8<sup>th</sup> Century prophets as a part of their Advent worship. And these passages are wonderful, inspiring, and hopeful – but – we have to be delicate when reading them for Christian worship. The way the church has portrayed ancient prophets are like fortune-tellers or predictors of the future. In reality, these men and women (yes, there were female prophets!) spoke truth to power. They were a mouth-piece for God, sharing words of encouragement or challenge to help the Israelites through the trials of their lives. But we treat them like psychics, and we are waiting for Jesus to make all of their predictions come true.

Consider our story from Isaiah. Honestly, when you read these verses, how many of you think of Mary? If you do, it’s natural! You’ve been taught to associate this passage with Mary most of your Christian life. But this is the trouble: the classical Christian attestation is that this is a prophecy of Jesus. When we take a text, sacred to the Jewish community, and we claim it as our own, and *only* our own, we are robbing our siblings in God of something they cherish. When we make these magnificent stories all about us, we are limiting the prophetic text and what it can mean to all people.

Well, if our reading from Isaiah 7 is not about Jesus and Mary, what is it about? The mid-8<sup>th</sup> Century BCE was violent, and the Assyrian Empire was on the war path. King Ahaz of Judah needed to act fast. Aram and Israel, to the North, had decided to create a coalition against Assyria, and they were pressuring King Ahaz to join their alliance. Or, King Ahaz could sign a treaty with Assyria, hoping that by doing so, Judah would be spared. An unexpected third option comes to him through a prophet. Isaiah comes to the King to urge patience and trust in the Lord. Given their repeated demands, Aram and Israel were starting to become as much of a threat as Assyria, and they were closer, too. The threat was no

longer a matter of if, but when. So, when Isaiah comes to the King with a word of wait, a word of “not so fast,” you can understand the King’s surprise. This was urgent! To prove his authenticity, Isaiah offers to show King Ahaz a sign. However, King Ahaz knows that one should never put the Lord to the test and refuses. God’s response is something akin to, “If I offer you a sign, you’re going to take it, and you’re going to like it, do you understand?” (Isn’t our God the best?)

Isaiah points to the crowd, to a woman budding with child and says “Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel....and by the time he knows how to refuse evil and choose good, the two kings you are in dread of will be deserted.” To be clear, the kings Isaiah is referring to are from Aram and Israel, not Assyria. What Isaiah is doing is pointing to a real life woman, right in front of the King, and saying, here. Here is your proof. This unborn child is a sign that God is present and engaging in our world. You can go into this Assyrian mess with trust in the Lord or not. Make your choice wisely.

So, when we ask the question, “what were they waiting for?” I would say the hope for peace. These people were anxious about their future, uncertain about their fate, and the prophet told them to look to a child as hope for the future.

There is something for all of us in this message. Isaiah’s prophecy wasn’t dependent on only *this* woman having *that* child. No, *every* child is a sign of God’s presence in the world. Every soul is evidence of God’s promise to us. In this story, Immanuel isn’t meant literally, it’s symbolic. “God with us” is true of all people, all of God’s good creation. And this opens the door for our Advent story. For if God is with all people, then certainly God is with Mary and Jesus. And maybe, for Jesus, Emmanuel wasn’t only a symbol. Maybe he’s the real thing. I think so. If you do, too, may we live out that belief. May we treat all people as a sign of God’s presence. On this first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Hope, may we look to all people in joyous hope and anticipation of a reconciled world and the coming kin-dom of God. Amen.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## November 28, 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*
- 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 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 sympathy to Ross Mueller and family, *upon the recent passing of his wife Kara, friends of Kelly Tyrrell*

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- Blessings for all other clergy in Nebraska

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Leda Zakarison 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

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Words: Latin prose, pre-9th Century

Music: Thomas Helmore, 1852

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show;  
and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all people in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.