



# 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

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**Week of January 16, 2022**



## Call to Worship

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

**One:** When we are lonely, there is One who knows how we feel:

**Many:** Our God - who gathers us up, pulling us close to the heart of love.

**One:** When we sit at the table of despair, there is One who throws a party for us:

**Many:** Our God - who loves to celebrate, who fills our lives with goodness.

**One:** When we are mired in the muck of life, there is One who comes to us:

**Many:** Our God - who changes our names, our God who transforms our lives.

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 all, most days our lives feel so plain. Nothing feels surprising or new when we go to the same job, cook the same dinner, and wash the same dishes every night. Why did you stop doing miracles? Or, is it that we just can't see them anymore? God, we pray to you together to soften our hearts to feel the small miracles around us: the melting of the snow, the laughter of children, cardinals and blue jays flying overhead. Allow us to see in these things that newness abounds. Remind us that even old wineskins can be filled up with fresh, sweet wine. We pray that when our lives feel dull, we return to you, and your promises for new life, now and forever. 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 worshiping 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

## *Isaiah 62:1-5*

<sup>1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not  
rest,  
until her vindication shines out like  
the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning  
torch.

<sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your vindica-  
tion,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

<sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the  
hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of  
your God.

<sup>4</sup> You shall no more be termed Forsak-  
en,  
and your land shall no more be  
termed Desolate;  
but you shall be called My Delight Is  
in Her,  
and your land Married;  
for the Lord delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.

<sup>5</sup> For as a young man marries a young  
woman,  
so shall your builder marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over  
the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.

## *John 2:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wed-  
ding in Cana of Galilee, and the moth-  
er of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his  
disciples had also been invited to the  
wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine gave out,  
the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They  
have no wine.' <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her,  
'Woman, what concern is that to you  
and to me? My hour has not yet  
come.'

<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants,  
'Do whatever he tells you.' <sup>6</sup> Now  
standing there were six stone water-  
jars for the Jewish rites of purification,  
each holding twenty or thirty gal-  
lons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars  
with water.' And they filled them up  
to the brim. <sup>8</sup> He said to them, 'Now  
draw some out, and take it to the chief  
steward.' So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the  
steward tasted the water that had be-  
come wine, and did not know where it  
came from (though the servants who  
had drawn the water knew), the  
steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and  
said to him, 'Everyone serves the good  
wine first, and then the inferior wine  
after the guests have become drunk.  
But you have kept the good wine until  
now.' <sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his  
signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed  
his glory; and his disciples believed in  
him.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 2nd Sunday After Epiphany*

### “The Ongoing Miracle of Cana”

My friend Mary gave me a wonderfully humorous card for my birthday this year: a police officer stands outside the car of a man wearing a clergy collar. The officer says “Reverend, have you been drinking?” The minister replies “Just water, officer.” Once you open the card the officer says “Then why do I smell wine?” The minister then exclaims “Good Lord! He’s done it again!” The final line of the card reads “(Have a miraculous birthday.)” While I’m not so sure I had such a miraculous birthday, the card does poke fun at the secret desire for many of us: how can I learn to change water into wine as Jesus did?

While this first miracle of Jesus in the Gospel of John provides humor for many of us today, why was this his first miracle? It is great to think of Jesus enjoying himself at a wedding. This story reminds us that Jesus embraced life. He took time to eat and drink with people and enjoyed these occasions. But, while Jesus attended all kinds of events, this miracle does seem a bit frivolous. Or does it? I suspect the groom was thrilled at the appearance of such tasty wine and the episode says a great deal about who Jesus was and why he came.

A colleague in a lectionary study group I was a part of pointed out three intriguing things about this story. First, you may have noticed that everything in this story is big: the crowd at the wedding, their thirst, and the large 20-30 gallon water jars. Everything in this story was intended to point out the abundance of God. Jesus did not simply provide a few bottles of wine; he gave the wedding revelers gallons and gallons of it. A second important issue is the idea that new wine was put in old vessels. The message for those at the wedding and for us today is the concept that old forms can be given new contents.

Finally, my colleague reminded us that in the Hebrew scriptures, an abundance of good wine was an eschatological symbol, a sign of the joyous arrival of God’s new age, the inaugural

act of God’s promised salvation. So for those experiencing this event, or hearing this story, they would have recognized this important symbol. The use of the word “hour” also points us to the future. The term in Greek has many meanings. It can simply mean a passage of or segment of time, but it can also have an eschatological or future orientation which describes the fulfillment of God’s reign. Jesus tried to tell his mother that the time had not yet come for his glorification. Again, those at this event or those hearing this story would have noticed this symbolic allusion to the future.

So, what does this lovely story in the life of Jesus have to say to us today? This story should remind us of the abundance of God. God yearns to provide for us more generously than we can imagine. Such bounty also requires us to share it with others for whom abundance is not so apparent. Abundance is meant to be shared not hoarded. Second, this story invites us to ponder how God is calling us to put new wine into the old vessels of our lives. We need not “throw the baby out with the bath water” to experience newness and plenty. Finally, God invites us to remember God’s presence and promises. Just as God was present in the past, God remains present today and promises to remain so into the future. As we enter into a new year, we need to stay aware of the opportunities for newness amidst the old. How will we make space for God in our own lives and in our lives as a congregation? We begin a new year with new people in leadership and with others shifting to new positions. My hope and prayer is that we will recognize the abundance of God in our midst and make room for the new wine Jesus brings.

AMEN



# Prayers & Praises

## January 16, 2022

### In Our Church Family:

- Arlene Heimer
- Harold & Donna Baker
- Marvin Thurber
- Polly Putney
- William Deterding
- Jessica Vocasek
- Vic Burgess

### 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*
- 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 Lanford, *prayers for Sarah Sims and prayers for herself to get through this tough winter season*

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- Ashland FCC and Rev. Bob Schofield

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Ricardo Mayol serving in Guatemala

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



# Song of the Week

## Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

Words: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2005

Music: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844

Loaves were broken, words were spoken  
by the Galilean shore.

Jesus, Bread of Life from heaven,  
was their food forevermore.

*By your body broken for us,  
by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people.  
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

Loaves were broken, words were spoken  
in a quiet room one night.

In the bread and wine you gave them,  
Christ, you came as Light from Light.

*By your body broken for us,  
by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people.  
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

Loaves are broken, words are spoken,  
as in faith we gather here.

Jesus speaks across the ages:  
"I am with you; do not fear!"

*By your body broken for us,  
by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people.  
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

By the loaves you break and give us,  
send us in your name to share  
bread for which the millions hunger,  
words that tell your love and care.

*By your body broken for us,  
by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people.  
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*