



# 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

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**Week of March 20, 2022**



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.

### Prayer of Confession

O God, our hearts are often filled with longing. We desire more things, crave new experiences, work for prestige, yearn for love, and strive for national security and prosperity. We believe we hunger for things outside ourselves and fail to recognize that our true longing is for you. Remind us as we struggle to center our lives in you and trust in your steadfast love. In your Holy Name, we pray. 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)

### Call to Worship

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

**One:** When our pockets are empty, God grants us what we need through grace.

**Many:** God thinks differently than we do.

**One:** When our souls are parched, God hands us a glass of living water.

**Many:** God's ways are different from ours.

**One:** When we grow weary of searching, God leads us home.

**Many:** God's love is different from ours.

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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](http://fcclincoln.org) website to make an online donation via PayPal.  
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# Scripture Reading

## *Isaiah 55:1-9*

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that  
which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not  
know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run  
to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One  
of Israel, for he has glorified you.  
<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may  
have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## *Luke 13:1-9*

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were  
some present who told him about  
the Galileans whose blood Pilate  
had mingled with their sacrifices.  
<sup>2</sup> He asked them, ‘Do you think  
that because these Galileans suffered  
in this way they were worse  
sinners than all other Galileans?’  
<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent,  
you will all perish as they  
did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were  
killed when the tower of Siloam  
fell on them—do you think that  
they were worse offenders than all  
the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No,  
I tell you; but unless you repent,  
you will all perish just as they did.’  
<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: ‘A  
man had a fig tree planted in his  
vineyard; and he came looking for  
fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he  
said to the gardener, “See here! For  
three years I have come looking for  
fruit on this fig tree, and still I find  
none. Cut it down! Why should it  
be wasting the soil?” <sup>8</sup> He replied,  
“Sir, let it alone for one more year,  
until I dig round it and put manure  
on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year,  
well and good; but if not, you can  
cut it down.”’

# Reflection

## *Meditation for the 3rd Sunday in Lent*

### “From Division to Renewal at the Table”

*By Pastor Leigh Lestina*

Have you ever struggled with reading your Bible? When I read the Bible for the first time at age thirteen, I was shocked to find out what was in there! I’ve also struggled to love my neighbors as myself. This seems so basic, but contention, gossip, and condemnation are easier to find than love. As Christians, we are called to read our Bibles, pray to our Creator, and serve and love those around us. With the invasion of Ukraine, we are called to pray for the Ukrainians, but do we pray for those in downtown Lincoln? Because we should!

Just as a fig tree shows its ripe and ready for the picking, so too does a Christian show their willingness to follow Jesus, wherever that may be. Whether it’s in the poorer parts of Downtown Lincoln or at a wealthy private school, we are commissioned to follow Jesus and bear fruits of the Spirit. During the Lenten season, Christ showed the fruits of the Spirit as God lived in him, witnessing the love of God. Do we witness the love of God? Do we not only feast with God, but welcome all others to Christ’s table as well? A part of being a Christian is judge not – do not play God. Turn from the darkness of judgement and toward the light of God. Just as Christ did not condemn those suffering to be awful sinners, so too we should not condemn those suffering far worse conditions to be damned sinners.

Isaiah and Luke play on this theme of repentance and renewal. There is a feast,

there are fruits of a fig tree, and there is a lack of condemnation by God. Just as Pastor Karen talked about how if we are in Christ, then judgement passes from us, so then, too does judgement cease from our lips. Instead, God asks us to repent, or turn from our sins, including judging others, to be ready for Christ’s death and resurrection. His death and resurrection are the hope that we as Disciples of Christ live with, where at baptism we walk in newness of life. My question for you, then, is this: Where do you need to be renewed by God?

Because where there is division in your heart, let there be renewal. Where we are swayed to and fro with our contention, let us come to God with the hope of Easter: Renewal with God at the Table.

May compassion be our guide and our God be our witness that the love of God – *agape* – can be found in us. Do not judge, and we will not be judged, be patient as God is patient, and all of us, including me, need to be Christ to others. Just as I might struggle to do the basic Christian things – love, read my Bible, pray – it’s okay to struggle! Our goal, as we’ve talked about in Youth Group, is to serve those on the outskirts of our churches, our towns, our cities, and in ourselves as being Jesus the Christ – Jesus the bringer of good news. So, let’s love with the steadfast loving-kindness that only comes from God!

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## March 20, 2022

### In Our Church Family:

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

### 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*
- Annie DeLosSantos, *with liver cancer diagnosis, sister of Vince Ortega*
- Alice Stehlik, *prayers for peace after a serious heart attack, grandmother of Jessica Vocasek*

### Friends:

- Our sympathy for the family and friends of Tallu Schuyler Quinn, former Kamp Kaleo Peace Intern and founder of the The Nashville Food Project; *Tallu passed away on Feb. 17 after a nearly 2 year battle with glioblastoma*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt*
- Carson Mousel, *grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer*
- Dr. Bob Kunz, *prayers for healing after second surgery for pancreatic cancer*

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- Elmwood Christian Church and Rev. Mark Sewell

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Raul Santiago-Rivera serving in Puerto Rico

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



# Song of the Week

## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Words: William Williams, 1762

Music: John Hughes, 1907

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty.  
Hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Song of praises, song of praises,  
I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.

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## Lenten Book Study

*The Power of Significance* by John C. Maxwell

### March 23 Session 3

Embrace Intentional Living

### March 30 Session 4

Be Willing to Start Small

### April 6 Session 5

Live with a Sense of Anticipation

### Holy Week

No Wednesday Night fellowship

### April 20 Session 6

Seize Significance Opportunities Every Day