



**First Christian Church**

Disciples of Christ

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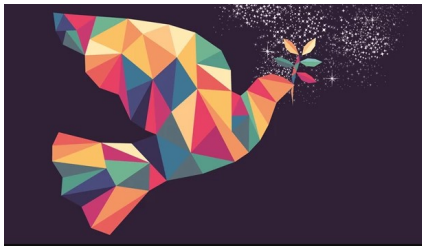
## Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

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**Week of May 22nd, 2022**



### Call to Worship

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

**One:** We come together this day, drawn by the light of God's love.

**Many:** In God's eternal kingdom, darkness and despair are vanquished.

**One:** In God's eternal realm, peace and hope reign.

**Many:** Let all the people praise God with their music and their voices!

**One:** Let all the people praise God with their deeds of loving-kindness!

**Many:** Praise be to God.

### Community Prayer

Holy God, thank you for the gift of the Advocate. We are so awed by the gifts of memory and peace that the Holy Spirit continues to bring. Help us trust in you and empower us to live out the kind of love that Jesus taught and embodied. Enable us to be your agents of love and peace in our own lives, our church, our community and our world.

AMEN

AMEN.

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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)



# Scripture Reading

## Psalm 67

To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,

*Selah*

that your way may be known upon  
earth,

your saving power among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.

*Selah*

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, has blessed us.  
May God continue to bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

## John 14:23-29

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, ‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup>‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup>You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

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### FCC Social Media!



Each week FCC is posting new pictures and announcements. Look for First Christian Church on Instagram, Facebook, and You Tube for new content every week. Get connected!

# Reflection

## *Meditation for the 6th Sunday of Easter*

### “Who Will Take Care of Us?”

In his article for Presbyterian Outlook Rev. Dr. Matthew A. Rich, Senior Pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill, South Carolina, shared a passage from renowned preacher Fred Craddock that captures the spirit of this passage from John well.

His (Jesus') followers are confused. They are children playing on the floor only to look up and see Mom and Dad putting on their coats. The children have three questions, always three questions: Where are you going? Can we come? Then who will stay with us? Jesus responds, “I am going to my Father and your Father. You cannot come now; you can come later. But I will not leave you orphans. I will send another friend, another helper who will never leave, but who will stay with you forever.”

Can't you see it? Just like small children the Disciples basically ask the same questions and share some of the same fears. The Disciples ask: “where are you going? Can we come too? And who will stay with us and take care of us?” Rich also pointed out that these are particularly poignant questions as we celebrate the graduations of so many during this time of year. Last week we celebrated with our two Seminarians in Residence as they graduate from Seminary. Each of us also knows many others who are, or will, graduate from High School, College and others who are preparing to graduate from other degree programs. It is a time for rejoicing but also can bring up fears and anxieties for everyone. Many parents may want to cry out “where are you going, can we come too and who will be here for us?” As adults we don't ask such questions out loud, but we may cry out to God with our concerns.

Although this portion of Jesus' Farewell Discourse may seem a bit incomprehensible, we may find ourselves empathizing more with the Disciples than we realized. Whether graduates are a part of our life these days or not, we may still ask the same questions; “Jesus where are you going? Can we come too? Who will take care of us now?” Just as this passage opens up these questions, it provides important an-

swers as well. Jesus told the Disciples that he was going to his Father and that they could not come yet. Perhaps the most important answers for us come in the response to the final question “who will take care of us?” Jesus told the Disciples, and by extension us, that the Advocate will come now. Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit would come now to not only be with them, but also to care for them. What does this mean in concrete terms? Rich offered the reminder that the Holy Spirit brought two gifts; memory and peace. The first gift of memory will help us remember all that Jesus did and said. The Holy Spirit reminds us of these things every time we open the Bible, pray and worship.

However, it may be the second gift of peace that we need most these days. The Greek used here for peace is “eirene” which can mean peace or harmony. The translation “harmony” lifts up the communal aspect of peace. It speaks to that sense of how people get along with one another. But, as a ministerial colleague once pointed out in our lectionary study group, there is also the idea of “inner peace.” Jesus urged each of the Disciples “do not let your hearts be troubled.” Just as the kind of love Jesus lived and described was both personal and communal, so is the peace the Holy Spirit brings. Jesus contrasted the peace brought by the Advocate with the peace described in the world. It is not a peace brought about by weapons. It is peace born out of deep trust in God. Perhaps our Psalmist described it best in Psalm 67 where we are invited to praise God for the blessings bestowed upon all creation by God not by humans.

Ultimately, the question “who will take care of us and remain with us always?” can be answered as we embrace the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of memory and God's peace will sustain us throughout the trials and challenges of life. The gifts of memory and peace embolden us to have courage and live lives grounded in God's love.

**AMEN**

# Prayers & Praises

## May 22, 2022

### In Our Church Family:

- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Our sympathy to the family of Arlene Heimer, *upon her recent passing*
- Harold & Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Jessica Vocasek
- Lois Frogge
- Joan Dietrich

### Relatives:

- Friends and Family of *Vic Burgess*
- 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*

### Friends:

- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart*
- Carson Mousel, *grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer*

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- Kamp Kaleo, campers, camp staff, and counselors

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Danielle Murry-Knowles serving in Lesotho

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



# Song of the Week

## Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Text: Attr. Ignaz Franz 1774  
Music: Johann Gottfried Schicht, 1819

Holy God, we praise your name;  
Lord of all, we bow before you.  
All on earth your scepter claim;  
all in heaven above adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain,  
everlasting is your reign.

Hark! The glad celestial hymn  
angel choirs above are raising;  
cherubim and seraphim,  
in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
“Holy, holy, holy Lord!”

All apostles join the strain  
as your sacred name they hallow;  
prophets swell the glad refrain,  
and the blessed martyrs follow,  
and from morn to set of sun,  
through the church the song goes  
on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit: three we name you,  
while in essence only one;  
undivided God we claim you,  
and adoring, bend the knee  
while we own the mystery.

