



# 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 June 5th, 2022**



### Call to Worship

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

**One:** The Day of Pentecost is here! God's children have gathered in this place:

**Many:** We are transformed into God's family by God's spirit joining with ours.

**One:** Come, Spirit of adoption, and open our hearts to our sisters and brothers:

**Many:** Come, Holy Spirit!

**One:** Come, Spirit of peace, and calm our trembling hearts:

**Many:** Come, Holy Spirit

**One:** Breath of God, and overturn our conventional lives:

**Many:** Come, Holy Spirit

**AMEN.**

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

O Holy Spirit, descend upon us today as you did long ago. Through your presence and power enable us to embrace one another in our differences and similarities. Help us open our hearts to you and each other. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

**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

## Genesis 11:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. <sup>2</sup>And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup>And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. <sup>4</sup>Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.' <sup>5</sup>The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, 'Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup>Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' <sup>8</sup>So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. <sup>9</sup>Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

## Acts 2:1-21

<sup>2</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

# Reflection

## *Meditation for the Day of Pentecost*

### “Celebrating Our Differences Through the Power of the Holy Spirit”

I like to play a little game with myself when I travel, particularly in parts of the world where people from various countries and regions gather. I love to listen to the various languages around me and try to discern what language is being spoken. This is often tricky with languages that seem quite similar, particularly when listening to them. The most challenging trip for me was while living in the Czech Republic, a group from the Czech Church visited churches in Slovakia. No one told me that Czech and Slovak, while similar, are two very distinctive languages. Since they had once been one country as Czechoslovakia I guess I assumed that they spoke one shared language and not two. Upon arrival late in the evening we all sat around the dinner table in the home of our host pastors. I chalked up my difficulty in following the conversation to fatigue until I learned the Czechs and Slovaks were speaking two different languages. One of my Slovak hosts told me in English, thank goodness, about the differences. She said the growing challenge for Czechs and Slovaks, since the Velvet Divorce in 1992, was that many Slovaks understood Czech because the Czech Republic is twice the size of Slovakia. However, many Czechs no longer understood Slovak. Those with families in both countries had reasons to keep up on both languages, but many others did not bother. The component that threw me off was the reality that the Czechs spoke Czech and the Slovaks spoke Slovak, they spoke in their mother-tongue but could be understood by the other. Slovak was just different enough that I really had a difficult time following the conversation. In fact, I basically failed.

Perhaps my days of living in the Czech Republic and my struggles to learn that language partially explains my love for the Day of Pentecost. I can still remember the joy I felt when I understood something said to me in Czech. The difference in language made it clear that we came from different places with different cultures. Yet somehow, we could bridge those differences through my limited Czech or the usually far better

English. We did not have to be the same, we were able to share the differences we each brought to the encounter. My growing love for the Czech Republic and the Czech people grew as I became better able to understand their language. Having six years there helped, but experiencing some of the nuances of their language gave me a deeper appreciation for the Czechs and their culture.

I wonder if those gathered together on that first Pentecost experienced a similar kind of joy as I did when I understood those speaking to me in Czech. As they gathered together for worship they brought all the challenges and gifts from their own cultures and backgrounds. People gathered from all corners of the then known world and were united by the presence of the Holy Spirit. They still retained their differences, but they were no longer impediments to their coming together in one spirit. In some ways the Holy Spirit was like the Universal Translator in Star Trek, they could speak their own languages and still understand the speech of others who were speaking a different language. What an amazing experience that must have been! Like my Czech and Slovak colleagues who were able to do the same, a miniature Pentecost experience.

Although our experience of Pentecost here at FCC may not be quite so dramatic, we are still invited into the spirit of the day. While we are united by one language here, we still come with our various differences. Sometimes we are challenged to understand one another. We may understand the literal words spoken, but often we bring our own unique understandings to the same words. We come from many places with differing pasts and experiences. Like my Czech and Slovak colleagues, and those gathered on that first Pentecost, all we need do is bring a willing spirit. As we open our hearts and minds to one another, we open ourselves to the presence of God. May we experience the presence of the Holy Spirit as we come together this Pentecost Day!

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## June 5, 2022

### In Our Church Family:

- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Dick & Roxie Pickel
- 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 Timothy's:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- Cotner College Education for LDSP Ministries

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Phyllis Byrd serving in Kenya

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



## 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!

# Song of the Week

## Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. 1982  
Music: Peter Cutts, 1969

Like the murmur of the dove's  
song,  
like the challenge of her flight,  
like the vigor of the wind's  
rush,  
like the new flame's eager  
might:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ's  
body,  
to the branches of the Vine,  
to the church in faith  
assembled,  
to her midst as gift and sign:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division,  
with the ceaseless voice of  
prayer,  
with the power to love and  
witness,  
with the peace beyond  
compare:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.