



**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 July 17th, 2022**



### Call to Worship

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

One: Be like olive trees in the house of God -- Green and flourishing, full and verdant.

Many: We will grow strong in the house of God -- deeply rooted, well watered.

One: Be like olive trees in the house of God -- seeking God's refuge, trusting God's care

Many: We will dwell in the house of God, and proclaim God's name forever!

### Community Prayer

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have created each of us and that we are uniquely and wonderfully made.

Help us celebrate our differences and empower us to value one another. May we use our various gifts to love and serve you as we care for one another.

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

## Psalms 52

To the leader. A Maskil of David, when Doeg the Edomite came to Saul and said to him, 'David has come to the house of Ahimelech.'

<sup>1</sup> Why do you boast, O mighty one,  
of mischief done against the godly?  
All day long <sup>2</sup>you are plotting destruction.

Your tongue is like a sharp razor,  
you worker of treachery.

<sup>3</sup> You love evil more than good,  
and lying more than speaking the truth.

*Selah*

<sup>4</sup> You love all words that devour,  
O deceitful tongue.

<sup>5</sup> But God will break you down for ever;  
he will snatch and tear you from your tent;  
he will uproot you from the land of the living.

*Selah*

<sup>6</sup> The righteous will see, and fear,  
and will laugh at the evildoer, saying,

<sup>7</sup> 'See the one who would not take  
refuge in God,  
but trusted in abundant riches,  
and sought refuge in wealth!'

<sup>8</sup> But I am like a green olive tree  
in the house of God.

I trust in the steadfast love of God  
for ever and ever.

<sup>9</sup> I will thank you for ever,  
because of what you have done.

In the presence of the faithful

I will proclaim your name, for it is good.

## Luke 10:38-42

<sup>38</sup> Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup> there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

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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  
fclincoln.org website to make an online donation  
via PayPal.  
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# Reflection

## “Not a Competition”

### *Meditation for the 6th Sunday after Pentecost*

This may come as a bit of a shock to some of you, but I was a real bookworm as a child. Well, I guess I still am. My brother used to torment me regularly by exclaiming “why don’t you do something instead of just sitting there and reading all the time?” So, I have to admit that the first time I heard this story from Luke I felt vindicated. I felt like I finally found my faith sister. I was okay because I was just like Mary and Jesus praised her for choosing to sit at his feet and listen to his teachings. Although I felt vindicated I also felt a bit uneasy. As a woman I was regularly told it would be better if I were more like Martha. While Jesus seemed to praise Mary, the world in which I grew up praised women who acted more like Martha. I suspect many of you tend to gravitate to one character in this story or the other. One does not have to be a woman to identify with the women in this story. Although I revel in my identification with Mary, I often found myself uneasy about having to choose one character over another. Dr. Jane Schaberg, Professor of Religious and Women’s Studies at University of Detroit Mercy in Detroit, Michigan, commented in her article on Luke in the *Women’s Bible Commentary* that many people are uncomfortable with this story because it seems to pit sister against sister.

Even though this story is commonly read and interpreted in a way that seems to lift up Mary and put down Martha, a careful reading of the text does not support this common interpretation. In this brief story we are told that Jesus came to the home of two sisters, Mary and Martha, who were apparently well known in their community. Martha eagerly prepared for his visit by preparing food and probably cleaning their home before the arrival of their illustrious guest. As Martha frantically prepared she saw her sister interacting with their guest and not helping with the standard activities of hospitality. In frustration she came to Jesus and implored him to tell Mary to help her.

As I explored the text more deeply I was excited to realize that Jesus’ response to Martha was closely followed by his comments to Mary. In reality, Jesus responded to Martha and then made a separate comment to Mary. The author of Luke said in verses 41 and 42 “But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing.” We often link this passage to the portion immediately

following. However, Schaberg noted that this response was intended solely for Martha. As you know, the Bible was originally shared orally and then began to be written on scrolls that had to be hand copied. For the most part, the scrolls were all alike. However, at times there were scrolls that contained different versions of various texts, these difference were called “variant readings.” When scholars translated the texts they usually chose the reading that fit best, but sometimes they read the “variants” to shed light on the scripture passage they were working with in translation. Schaber noted that there is a variant reading in our story that sheds light on Jesus’ comments to Martha. In our translation used today Jesus said “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing.” A variant reading said “few things are necessary.” The implication is that Jesus was speaking about the menu. Like many people eager to provide ample hospitality, Martha has provided more than enough. Jesus was trying to give Martha a break and invited her to consider that she only needed to provide a few, or one thing, to satisfy the obligations of hospitality. Jesus extended grace to Martha hoping she would be kinder to herself.

Then Jesus turned his attention to Mary. Martha’s request for her help was undoubtedly still ringing in Jesus’ ears. In the closing verse of our passage Jesus said to both Martha and Mary “Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.” Sadly, the translation is a bit misleading. The Greek actually said that Mary had chosen “the good, or useful, part.” The use of the word “better” once again pits sister against sister. However, the intent of Jesus was not to lift up Mary by putting down Martha. They each made choices that fit their personality best, one choice was not better than another. In the church we have undoubtedly noticed that we need both the Marys and the Marthas. Each sister brought their own gifts, just as each of us brings unique gifts to our life together. We need all those who are willing to provide hospitality in all its various forms. We also need those who sit and interact with our guests. In reality, each of us brings different gifts that enrich our community. The only thing lacking here at FCC is a “Mary Group” to go with our “Martha Group.” When we move away from competition we no longer need to “pit” sister against sister or brother against brother. Jesus connected with each sister and valued them and what they each had to offer. May we find the grace to do the same. **Amen**

# Prayers & Praises

## July 17, 2022

### In Our Church Family:

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

### Relatives:

- Family and friends of Doug Wielage, Jessica Vocasek's uncle who passed away suddenly last week.
- Dan Principato *recovering from surgery for Dercum's disease, friend of the Vocaseks*
- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- 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 Brockmeyer*

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- North Platte First Christian Church and Jean Anderson

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- G. Lou serving in China



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

### Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show

Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1834

Praise the Lord! God's glories  
show, Alleluia!  
saints within God's courts  
below, Alleluia!  
angels round the throne above,  
Alleluia!  
all who see and share God's  
love. Alleluia!

Earth to heaven exalt the  
strain, Alleluia!  
Send it, heaven, to earth again,  
Alleluia!  
Age to age, God's mercies trace,  
Alleluia!  
Praise God's providence and  
grace! Alleluia!

Strings and voices, hands and  
hearts, Alleluia!  
in the concert, bear your parts,  
Alleluia!  
All that breathes, your Lord  
adore, Alleluia!  
singing praise forevermore,  
Alleluia!