



First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

Weekly Worship

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

Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, Pastor

Ethan Cai, Administrative Assistant

Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader

www.fcclincoln.org

info@fcclincoln.org

Week of July 24th, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: Welcome to worship this day.

Many: We have come seeking peace and hope.

One: This is the house of the Lord.
In it you will find what you seek.

Many: Help us to open our hearts to God's words and will for us.

One: Ask for God's help - it will be given to you.

Many: Praise be to God who loves and cares for us.

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 God, we give you thanks that you hold us close to you each and every day. Thank you for teaching us to pray. Help us come to you in prayer during the good times and the bad. As we open our hearts to you in prayer, draw us closer to you and to one another. We place ourselves humbly before you, each day and every hour. Enable us to “keep praying!”

AMEN

Scripture Reading

Psalm 85

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.
LORD, you were favourable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.

Selah

You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation towards us.
Will you be angry with us for ever?
Will you prolong your anger to all
generations?
Will you not revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in
their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who
fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the
sky.
The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

Luke 11:1-13

¹He was praying in a certain place, and after
he had finished, one of his disciples said to
him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught
his disciples.' ²He said to them, 'When you
pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted
to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

⁵ And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you
has a friend, and you go to him at midnight
and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves
of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and
I have nothing to set before him." ⁷And he
answers from within, "Do not bother me; the
door has already been locked, and my
children are with me in bed; I cannot get up
and give you anything." ⁸I tell you, even
though he will not get up and give him
anything because he is his friend, at least
because of his persistence he will get up and
give him whatever he needs.

⁹ 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to
you; search, and you will find; knock, and the
door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone
who asks receives, and everyone who
searches finds, and for everyone who knocks,
the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone
among you who, if your child asks for a fish,
will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the
child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If
you then, who are evil, know how to give
good gifts to your children, how much more
will the heavenly Father give the Holy
Spirit to those who ask him!'

Reflection

“Keep Praying”

Meditation for the 7th Sunday after Pentecost

It is part of our worship every Sunday following our prayers and praises. It is part of our worship whenever we gather for special services like Christmas Eve and Maundy Thursday. We recite it when we come together at funerals, memorial service, and grave sides. For many of us it is also a part of personal prayer. There are various versions and translations of what we call “The Lord’s Prayer” which sometimes creates a bit of a cacophony when people from various faith communities gather. As Christians it is often one of the first prayers we learn. I can remember trying to learn it in Czech when I lived in the Czech Republic. Like us, the Czechs have various versions and I never really learned it by heart, I usually needed to have a printed copy on hand. This prayer of Jesus shapes us and forms us throughout our lives. In his reflections for the Presbyterian Outlook John Wurster, pastor at St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas, remarked: “Jesus’ reflections on prayer in this passage point beyond techniques, forms and styles. There are no magic formulas, no right words. When it comes to prayer it’s not so much a matter of what and how and when. Rather, it’s about who and why.” He went on to say: “The “who” is each of us and all of us and God. Prayer binds each of us and all of us closer to God. Why do we pray? We pray to God because God is the one from whom all blessings flow. We pray to God because all that we are and all that we have comes from God’s hand. We pray to God because in life and in death we belong to God.”

I really resonated with what Wurster had to say when he went on to point out that all this sounds great when we are sitting here in church. We are in our beautiful sanctuary, our ears still ringing with glorious music and we are still filled with God’s holy Word and awaiting the joy of the Lord’s super. What happens when we pray day after day and nothing happens? What do we do when everyone, our friends, family,

church family and acquaintances, prays and nothing seems to change? How do we face the ongoing illness, the death of loved ones, war around the world and all the injustice that swirls all around us? In verse 10 of our passage today Jesus said: “For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” Did Jesus mean it or are we somehow the exception? I suspect there are times in all our lives when we have felt overwhelmed and despairing and wondered why we should continue to pray.

Wurster summed it up well when he said:

Prayer is not about getting what we want when we want it. Prayer is about learning to trust God; it’s about growing in relationship with God by voicing the cares of our hearts and sharing with God the joys and sorrows of our lives. Prayer is not the clenched fist demanding that our will be done; it is the open hand receiving God’s provisions for this day. Prayer is the means by which we acknowledge that God is God and we are not.

Such an awareness grows slowly over a lifetime. The heart of prayer is that we keep praying. Whether we use the words of Jesus or our own, it is our willingness to pray during the good times and the bad that is an expression of hope and trust in God. Prayer is our willingness to share the joy and the pain with one another and with God. Being formed and shaped by the Lord’s Prayer invites us to keep praying to God who provides for us and leads us closer and closer to one another and to God. We trust that God has us and the situations in our lives and world in God’s hands. All we need to do is open our hearts and minds to God daily, in worship and in private. No matter what happens throughout life we are invited to “keep praying!”

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

July 24, 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.
- 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*
- Laurie Aufdemberge, with breast cancer, sister of *Kristi Bowker*

Friends:

- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of *Cec Burkhart*
- Carson Mousel, grandson of *Bob and Eileen Kunz*, from *Mildred Brockemeyer*
- Dan Principato recovering from surgery for *Dercum's disease*, friend of the *Vocaseks*
- Family of *Barb Kuzma*, with brain tumor, friend of *Kristi Bowker*

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:

- North Platte First Christian Church and *Jean Anderson*

Our Global Ministries

Missionaries:

- Carlos Sediles serving in Mexico



Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at www.globalministries.org

Song of the Week

Now Thank We All Our God

Text: Martin Rinkart 1636

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is,
and shall be evermore.