



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 31st, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: Our lives are in the care of God.
Many: God has given us abundance and hope.

One: This day we have come to praise and thank God for all that God has done for us.

Many: We gather to celebrate God's love and to offer our lives in service.

One: Come, let us open our hearts to the Lord!

Many: Let us rejoice in God's goodness and love. 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 God, we give you thanks that you are more giving toward us than we are towards you and one another.

Wherever we are in life, help us begin by being generous with you. As we grow in our ability to be generous with you help us grow in generosity to one another. Equip us to use all that we are and all that we have to serve you and all those you love.

AMEN

Scripture Reading

Psalm 107:1-9, 43

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble
³ and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;

⁵ hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.

⁶ Then they cried to the LORD in their
trouble,
and he delivered them from their
distress;

⁷ he led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.

⁸ Let them thank the LORD for his
steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to
humankind.

⁹ For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good
things.

⁴³ Let those who are wise give heed to
these things,
and consider the steadfast love of
the LORD.

Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' ¹⁴But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' ¹⁵And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" ¹⁸Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

Reflection

“Called to be rich toward God”

Meditation for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Have you ever noticed how many self-storage units there are throughout our city?. More seem to pop up every day. They seem a bit like mushrooms, popping out of the ground seemingly overnight. Can it be that we have so much stuff that we need extra places to put it all? I had a glimpse into the self-storage world when I lived in Prague for 6 years and had to put my belongings in such a place since I was limited on what I could take with me. But with houses getting larger and larger it does seem odd we need more space. The main character in our Gospel story had a similar struggle. Like many people today he had more stuff than his residence could store. In Jesus' day people were not fortunate enough to have ready-made storage units, so people in this predicament had to build their own. I suspect our nameless character could have been a star on one of the many “hoarders” show. It was not that he had stuff, it was his attitude toward all that stuff that made him the centerpiece of our story. After building his new and larger storage units he reveled in the idea that all his stuff was safely put away for his future needs. Like many of the hoarders featured on those programs there was no sense that all the collected items would be used to help others. The items have been set aside for sole use by the owner and any suggestion about giving them away to help others is met with great resistance.

Although the words “hoard” and “hoarder” did not exist in Jesus' time, the concept was there. The word “hoard” comes from 2 Old English words; treasure and to hide. These are the two central characteristics of modern-day “hoarders.” They have enormous amounts of stuff and they often hide their things and their hoarding problem. Another interesting dimension that usually arises is the fact that the “hoarder” has so many things that they cannot use these things or their space in any useful way. During the clean out the hoarder often exclaims “I forgot I had that!” While most of us probably do not have a hoarding problem I suspect most of us would like to have fewer things. During the recent years of the pandemic I noticed a lot of us spent some of our spare time cleaning out our homes and clearing out stuff. As I begin to think of retirement I am very aware of the need to down-size and find new homes for many of my treasures. It is

important to plan for tomorrow, but how many of us are “owned by our things instead of owning them?” Like the main character of our parable today we may find ourselves struggling under the weight of things instead of allowing our things to help others and ourselves.

Jesus challenged his listener, and us today, to ponder the place of stuff in our lives. The problem highlighted in this story was not the stuff, it was the attitude towards it. The Greek tells us that the subject of our parable was very wealthy. He had abundant resources. And yet, it did not seem to be enough, he wanted more. The Greek also indicated that the man wanted to “gather up” all that he had. He had a conversation with his “soul” and reveled in the reality that he had so much. He asked himself what he wanted to do with all that abundance. He decided that now he could relax and hold on to all his things. Sadly, there was no thought of how to use his stuff to help himself or others. The young man considered only himself and no one else. There was also the sense that he had no sense of gratitude, no awareness that his bounty came from God. In fact, God goes so far as to call him “a fool.” The Greek once again adds depth to the term “fool.” In this context a fool was someone lacking reason and someone without the capacity for self-reflection. The moral of this parable came from God in the last line: “so it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.” So, what would it mean “to be rich toward God?” To be rich towards God means to recognize God as the source of all we are and all we have. To be rich towards God means to place our trust in God, not in ourselves or our stuff. The sad thing for the rich man, and for many hoarders, is not the abundance of possessions but our attitude towards them. Often we miss the point, that wealth is meant to be shared. Our parable today invites us to ask, where do we place our trust? May we have the courage to place our trust in God

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

July 31, 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 recently*
- Friends and Family of *Vic Burgess*
- Roger Christianson, *with stage 4 cancer, father of Brady Christianson*
- Family and friends of Annie DeLosSantos, *sister of Vince Ortega who passed from cancer last week.*
- 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:

- Omaha First Christian Church and Rev. Josh Sawyer

Our Global Ministries

Missionaries:

- Erinn Miller serving in the United Kingdom



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

Song of the Week

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1961

God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace
conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.