



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 Lugin, Stephen Ministry Leader

www.fcclincoln.org

info@fcclincoln.org

Week of August 7, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: We are people who have been called to follow where God leads us.

Many: By faith we can obey, even when asked to walk into an unknown future.

One: We are people who have been challenged to tell God's story to others.

Many: By faith we have the ability to share the good news.

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

God of the past, present and future, we give you thanks that you guide us still. When we are weary or feeling hopeless, remind us of your presence in our lives, our world and our congregation. Help us trust you, especially when your presence seems hidden and the way before us is unseen.

AMEN

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 fcclincoln.org website to make an online donation via PayPal.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 50:1-8, 23

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ The mighty one, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

³ Our God comes and does not keep
silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.

⁴ He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his
people:

⁵ ‘Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by
sacrifice!’

⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.

Selah

⁷ ‘Hear, O my people, and I will speak,
O Israel, I will testify against you.
I am God, your God.

⁸ Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt-offerings are continually
before me.

²³ Those who bring thanksgiving as their
sacrifice honour me;
to those who go the right way
I will show the salvation of God.’

¹¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped
for, the conviction of things not
seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors
received approval. ³ By faith we understand
that the worlds were prepared by the word
of God, so that what is seen was made from
things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was
called to set out for a place that he was to
receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not
knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he
stayed for a time in the land he had been
promised, as in a foreign land, living in
tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were
heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he
looked forward to the city that has
foundations, whose architect and builder is
God. ¹¹ By faith he received power of
procreation, even though he was too old—
and Sarah herself was barren—because he
considered him faithful who had
promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and
this one as good as dead, descendants were
born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as
the innumerable grains of sand by the
seashore.’

¹³ All of these died in faith without having
received the promises, but from a distance
they saw and greeted them. They confessed
that they were strangers and foreigners on
the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this
way make it clear that they are seeking a
homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the
land that they had left behind, they would
have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it
is, they desire a better country, that is, a
heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed
to be called their God; indeed, he has
prepared a city for them.

Reflection

“Blind Faith”

Meditation for the 9th Sunday after Pentecost

You have probably seen the list entitled “Hymns for Every Occupation.” One of my favorites is for dentists; “Crown Him with Many Crowns.” Perhaps you like the one for eye doctors; “Open Mine Eyes That I May See.” Or, your favorite might be the one for meteorologists; “There Shall be Showers of Blessings.” As a legally blind person I think one of my favorite hymns is; “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight.” All joking aside, what does it mean when the author of the Letter to the Hebrews said; “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen?” Throughout my life I have had to do things with limited vision, I have developed alternative techniques that enable me to do the same kinds of things without using vision that most people do visually. As I leave the church I wait for the traffic to run parallel to me to know that it is safe, hopefully, to cross. I do not have to see the traffic light to get the cue that it is time to cross the street. I often read books and other material by listening to them instead of relying on my eyes. I recognize people by their voice instead of recognizing them visually. I often “walk by faith and not by sight.” So, I may have a different way of “looking” at our familiar text from Hebrews.

However, our passage today is meant for everyone, sighted and blind. There are a lot of things we take by faith even though we cannot literally see them. On a cloudy day we know the sun has risen even when it is obscured by clouds. We see the effects of the wind blowing even though we are unable to see the wind itself. We trust in the existence of gravity even though it is an unseen force. The author of our passage today wanted to remind the readers, and by extension us, that all of us take many things by faith. A life of faith is based on our willingness to trust God and our conviction that God is present in our lives and in the world in which we live. One way the author reinforced this point was by the use of examples. The author lifted up those in the past who trusted and

relied on God. They all responded to God’s call and leading even though they could not see the outcome. The future was unseen, but their willingness to trust God enabled them to move forward.

Although there are many people today who would deride us for our faith, we recognize it’s centrality in our lives. We each understand and experience faith in different ways. The heart of faith is trust. As I move about the world I ultimately trust that I have the tools and skills I need to navigate life, the seen and unseen aspects of it. I, like the ancestors mentioned in our passage today, also trust that God will care for me in the world that God has created. We do not need to look only to our ancestor to find examples of those who have trusted in God. Often, when we look back at our own lives we can identify those time and instances when we trusted and relied on God. Such examples are not just personal. As a congregation we can, and have, looked back to identify the many ways in which God has guided us into an often unknown future. Our willingness to trust God has led us in directions we could not have anticipated. In the coming week we have been invited to celebrate with our neighbor St. Mary’s Catholic Church as they envision new ways in which God will guide them into the future. When our congregation had to sell that building in 1904 no one could have imagined where the future would take us. But, here we are! Both congregations continue to faithfully follow God’s leading even into an unknown future.

The challenge before us now, are we willing to continue trusting God? Will we have faith even in the face of an unseen future? Faith and hope require a tremendous amount of trust and work, but as our ancestors learned, it is worth all the effort. May we be bolstered by the promise made by the author of this letter; “now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

August 7, 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 George Bowker, *Brad Bowker's father who passed away last week*
- 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 recently.*
- 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 Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Pawnee First Christian Church and Rev. Diane Morgan

Our Global Ministries

Missionaries:

- Rachel Pellet serving in Jamaica



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

Song of the Week

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

Text: Henry Alford, 1844

We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none
e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."

We may not touch your hands and
side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found.

And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.