



**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

**Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz**, Pastor

**Ethan Cai**, Administrative Assistant

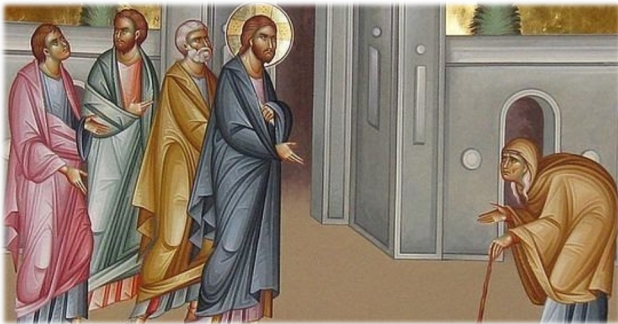
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**Week of August 21, 2022**



### Call to Worship

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

**One:** Before we got up this morning and decided to come to church

**Many:** God was waiting for us, to welcome us with grace.

**One:** When we are unsure of what to do; when we falter before the next step,

**Many:** We come to listen to God's voice, to learn from the One who teaches us all we ever need to know.

### Community Prayer

God of the Ages, you formed and cherish each of us. You know us better than we know ourselves. You call us to serve you and one another even, and especially, when we feel unready and unequipped. Help us remember that you, O God, equip the called; you do not call the equipped. For this we give you our thanks and praise.

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.

# Scripture Reading

## Jeremiah 1:4-10

<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup>‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’

<sup>6</sup>Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’ <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to me, ‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the LORD.’

<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.’

## Luke 13:10-17

<sup>10</sup>Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. <sup>11</sup>And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup>When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, ‘Woman, you are set free from your ailment.’ <sup>13</sup>When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup>But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, ‘There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.’ <sup>15</sup>But the Lord answered him and said, ‘You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?’ <sup>16</sup>And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?’ <sup>17</sup>When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

# Reflection

“God equips the called; God does not call the equipped”

*Meditation for the 11th Sunday after Pentecost*

If you were to ask anyone who knew me in High School what they thought my eventual profession would be I suspect no one would have said the ministry. During my High School years I was not religious or churched. I was not active in any activities that required public speaking or being in leadership. I belonged to things like the Chess Team and the Writer's Club, all potentially solitary activities. I liked to read and if anyone speculated about my future they probably imagined me in the background as a librarian or researcher. As I entered college I began to think about the vocation of counselor or therapist. I was probably as shocked as anyone when I began to discern a call into ministry. While in college I became active in campus ministry and joined a nearby church. I had never known a woman preacher and as a legally blind person I never imagined that God would call me to be a parish pastor. Like Jeremiah I felt woefully inadequate and inexperienced to prepare for the ministry. As I pondered a call into ministry I, like Jeremiah, I protested that I was too young, ill at ease speaking in public and did not possess the gifts needed for any type of ministry. Despite the protests of my mother, I could not continue to say no to God's call so I decided to apply to seminary and see what happened. When I was accepted to Princeton Theological Seminary I sensed that God was definitely calling. At first I thought the call was to become a pastoral counselor, but I began to discern a call in a different direction. Although not a counselling position I felt called to the related field of chaplaincy.

As I look back on my 35 plus years of ministry I feel a bit sorry for those I ministered to in the beginning. I was so young and inexperienced. However, I was blessed by wonderful mentors and supervisors who helped me grow and mature as a servant of God. In her reflections for the Presbyterian Outlook on our text for today, Rev. Teri McDowell-Ott mentioned: “In his Feasting on the Word commentary on this passage, Thomas R. Steagald, reminds us of a basic biblical and theological truth: “God equips the called; God does not call the equipped.”” My life and ministry have been a testimony to that truth. God has continued to guide me and equip me throughout my ministry and continues to do so still.

One does not have to receive a call from God to enter seminary to be a faithful Christian. As part of the Reformed tradition we acknowledge that God calls each and every one of us to some form of service and ministry. So, do not panic! Thankfully God does not call us all to seminary trained ordained ministry. What a frightening world that would be. God gifts each of us in different ways and calls us to serve in as many forms as there are individuals. As part of the Reformed tradition we also acknowledge that there are three dimensions to every call. There is a sense of the inward call, the invitation that grows within our hearts and minds. There is the outward call, the recognition of others that God has formed us for a ministry as unique as each of us. This dimension of God's call may come through a Nominating Team that sees the seeds of ministry within us. It may come through friends and colleagues who know us well. It may come through mentors and guides. As our Nominating Team prepares to begin its work they may invite you to consider serving in ways you had not discerned before. Do not dismiss their invitation without giving it some prayerful consideration. Remember, “God equips the called; God does not call the equipped.” Finally, the community recognizes and affirms the call. This may involve being cleared to move towards ordination. It may mean the congregational receipt of the Nominating Team's report and the election of various people to ministry and service within the church. As the story of Jeremiah demonstrated, this is not always a linear process. Sometimes the inner call comes first as it did for Jeremiah. Later the community recognized his call to be a prophet even when he said things they did not want to hear. For many of us we hear a call from the community that leads to an inner awareness of God's call on our lives.

Like Jeremiah, it is often natural to resist God's call. As we open our hearts to God and our community we become more ready and able to respond. As the Nominating Team does its work bear in mind “God equips the called; God does not call the equipped.”

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## August 21, 2022

### In Our Church Family:

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

### Relatives:

- Family and friends of George Bowker, *Brad Bowker's father who passed away recently*
- 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:

- Kirby Gould and family. *Her husband John Gould entered hospice on Saturday following a stroke.*
- 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:

- Plattsmouth First Christian Church and Rev. Michael Lincoln

### Our Global Ministries

#### Missionaries:

- Maria Bakalian serving in Lebanon



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

# Song of the Week

## I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Text: Isaac Watts, 1715

I sing the mighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day.

The moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord  
who filled the earth with food.  
God formed the creatures through the Word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes thy glories known.  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from thy throne,  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in thy care,  
and everywhere that we can be,  
thou, God, art present there.

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## 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!