



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 August 28, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: We come to worship our God, to listen to the One who calls us here.

Many: We come trusting God to lead us in the coming days, as surely as were our grandparents in the faith.

One: We come to worship our God, to shout with the joy to the God of all people.

Many: We come to the Creator of all things, to be bathed in the waters of life.

One: We come to the feast of God's faithful, to be fed by the One who never forsakes us.

Many: We come to worship our God, to sing aloud to the One who saves 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

Holy God, we give thanks that you invite us to celebrate your presence in our world and our live. Help us embody your Realm of love and compassion. Empower us to renew our commitment to you and your Church. Guide us to give of ourselves in every way as you have so freely given to us.

AMEN

Scripture Reading

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

To the leader: according to The Gittith.
Of Asaph.

¹ Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

¹⁰ I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up out of the land of
Egypt.

Open your mouth wide and I will fill
it.

¹¹ 'But my people did not listen to my
voice;

Israel would not submit to me.

¹² So I gave them over to their stubborn
hearts,
to follow their own counsels.

¹³ O that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!

¹⁴ Then I would quickly subdue their
enemies,
and turn my hand against their foes.

¹⁵ Those who hate the LORD would
cringe before him,
and their doom would last for ever.

¹⁶ I would feed you with the finest of
the wheat,
and with honey from the rock I would
satisfy you.'

¹⁴ On one occasion when Jesus was going
to the house of a leader of the Pharisees
to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were
watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose
the places of honour, he told them a
parable. ⁸ 'When you are invited by
someone to a wedding banquet, do not
sit down at the place of honour, in case
someone more distinguished than you
has been invited by your host; ⁹ and the
host who invited both of you may come
and say to you, "Give this person your
place", and then in disgrace you would
start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when
you are invited, go and sit down at the
lowest place, so that when your host
comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move
up higher"; then you will be honoured in
the presence of all who sit at the table
with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves
will be humbled, and those who humble
themselves will be exalted.'

¹² He said also to the one who had invited
him, 'When you give a luncheon or a
dinner, do not invite your friends or your
brothers or your relatives or rich
neighbours, in case they may invite you
in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But
when you give a banquet, invite the poor,
the crippled, the lame, and the
blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because
they cannot repay you, for you will be
repaid at the resurrection of the
righteous.'

Reflection

“Make Room and Join us at the Banquet”

Meditation for the 12th Sunday after Pentecost

It seems to be something experienced more often in the past, particularly before the onset of COVID-19, the celebratory banquet. I suspect most of us have attended such a banquet at some point in our lives. As a pastor I have sometimes been invited to give the keynote speech or the invocation at such events. It is often an awkward experience, entering the banquet hall and trying to figure out where to sit. When I have been invited to give the keynote address it was obvious, I would be seated at the head table. But, when giving a simple opening or closing prayer the question would arise, where do I sit? I do not want to be so bold as to think I will be seated at the head table, but where do I go? In our passage from Luke Jesus used the image of a wedding banquet to talk about the differences between the expectations of our world and those of the Reign and Realm of God. He used this common experience for those listening to describe a less common reality. The wedding banquet was common in the time of Jesus, and in the Jewish literature before, and was an image often used to talk about the Reign of God. Like a wedding, the arrival of God's Reign will be a time of great joy and celebration. Being a part of God's Reign will also be challenging because we will be urged to view life in a different way than we do now.

In his reflections on this text Rev. Dr. Ron Allen, a former minister in the Nebraska Region, invited us all to look at this familiar parable in a deeper way. In the stewardship material created for the Christian Church (D.O.C.) Allen suggested that this text invites us to consider the true nature of community as the context for stewardship. For those initially hearing this parable the wedding feast was a common occurrence, as it still is in many parts of the Middle East today, and displayed the social norms and expectations of that time. The stratified social structure was mirrored in this tale. Those with plentiful resources had the high seats of honor and those without were relegated to the lower places or not included at all. Those who sought the seats of honor wanted the social visibility they thought their position and resources afforded them. They

sought more power, position and recognition. Jesus contrasted this familiar social structure by offering a new perspective. For Jesus the real wedding banquet would happen when God's Reign and Realm came to be. Those who trusted in social recognition and position will find it to be transitory. Those who trust in the humility and inclusion of the Reign and Realm of God will find that to be lasting. Allen went on: “The Lukan Jesus, of course, is not simply speaking about manners at a wedding but is using behavior at a wedding to describe a mind-set, values, behaviors, and use of resources that should mark the community of the realm and those who participate in it.” Allen went on: “Insofar as stewardship is everything we do with everything we have, this part of the text becomes a lens for thinking about how and where we can “take the lowest place.” Jesus invites us to take the lower seat of service and in doing so we become more able to develop a sense of solidarity with others.

As we move into the fall and regroup from our struggles with COVID our text today invites us to ask the following questions suggested by Rev. Allen. “In my world, at what points can I step away from old-age values and commitments, and step towards values and commitments that are more associated with the realm? In the way I raise my children? In my work place? In my leisure time? We are also invited to consider how we are part of the Realm of God. How do we embody God's realm in our lives? As we re-engage this fall how might we see this as a beginning to our re-invigorated giving of ourselves? The central theme for the author of Luke is the re-imagining of what it means to be a community of faith, to be the body of Christ. The Church in Luke's time, as well as ours, is called to incarnate the Realm and Reign of God. This calls us to the transformation of perspective and lifestyle. For Allen the Church provides the structure for bringing God's Realm closer. As part of God's Church we are invited to be a tangible witness to the Reign and Realm of God. So, let's celebrate together as God draws us into a new way of perceiving and being in our world today. AMEN

Prayers & Praises

August 28, 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*
- 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 following a stroke.*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart*
- Carson Mousel, *grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer*
- Family of Barb Kuzma, *who passed away from a 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:

- Scottsbluff First Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Martha Mensendiek serving in Japan

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Text: German Hymn

Music: Joseph Bamby 1868

When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!