



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

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Week of September 18, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: We gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives.

Many: God's love fills our hearts to overflowing.

One: We gather, in God's presence, to find comfort and hope in our pain.

Many: God's grace wipes away our tears and knits us together as one people.

One: We gather together to worship God in faith and truth.

All: Alleluia! 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, help us be the bold and creative stewards you need today. Unlike the steward in our Gospel lesson, help us be guided by your wisdom and love. Empower us to use our gifts of time, talent, and money to serve you and witness to your presence in our lives and congregation.

AMEN

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,
my heart is sick.
Hark, the cry of my poor people
from far and wide in the land:
'Is the LORD not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?'
(‘Why have they provoked me to anger with
their images,
with their foreign idols?’)
'The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved.'
For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!

Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.” Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.” So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.” And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

‘Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’

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!

Reflection

“Creative and Bold Stewards of God”

Meditation for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost

“He was a boozier with a profligate lifestyle, characterized by bribery and lying, who treated many powerful Nazis as if they were close personal friends.” Rev. Dr. Ron Allen, Disciple pastor and former minister member of the Nebraska Region, reminded the reader in his Stewardship material for the denomination that Oskar Schindler was a seemingly disreputable character. Allen went on to say that Schindler “... was a dishonest manager with respect to Nazi expectations by treating Jewish workers better than he should have in his enamelware and munitions factories.” Now Schindler is regarded as a hero because he saved the lives of over 1,200 Jews during the Nazi regime. At first glance the wealthy industrialist was probably seen as shrewd and cunning, someone who did not hesitate to lie and cheat his way to the top. In the end, his factories created shells that would not fire properly. Allen concluded that Schindler “... cheated and lied in the interest of a larger, life-saving, good.”

In our Gospel lesson from Luke Jesus told a story about a similar person. He described someone much like Schindler. This story is often called “the Parable of the Dishonest Manager.” Why would Jesus pick such a disreputable character as the focus of a parable? Allen went on to comment that in “The NRSV “manager” renders the Greek *oikonomos*, or “steward.” In ancient days, an owner invested the steward with considerable power to manage the estate. Indeed, the steward could sometimes operate with almost the same decision-making power as the owner. Of course, the steward was always accountable to the owner for the steward’s actions.” Our main character held a great deal of power. The role of the Steward was not simply something relegated to the biblical past. Allen reminded us that in the past some congregations had a Board of Stewards. They oversaw all the resources of a congregation, “(human, property, financial)...” In our congregation, like many others, we have split up these components. Now we have a Board and a Finance/Stewardship Team. The implication today is that all of us are stewards who oversee gifts of human resources, property and finances in our own lives and in the life of the church.

As we begin our Stewardship Campaign you may be wondering what kind of stewards are we called to be.

Are we invited to be the kind of steward lifted up in our text today? Before you panic, we have to consider the context of this story. This is a complex text and could be viewed in several ways. In fact, commentators have struggled to explain the meaning of this somewhat enigmatic parable. Allen pointed out that Jesus used a common style of story-telling that was a rabbinic form of argument. With this in mind, Allen suggested that the thesis of this parable would be: “If a dishonest manager can accomplish something good through dishonest means, how much more can the disciples do when operating on behalf of the realm of God?” Allen went on to say that “...Luke wants those who hear this passage to make a bold, creative witness. Whether or not the passage specifically refers to making friends with (being in solidarity with) the poor, such solidarity is part of the Lukan witness.”

As our passage draws to a close in verse 13 the author invites us to consider that we cannot serve two masters and we are invited to serve God and not wealth, or in some translations mammon. The basic assumption behind this verse was that everyone believed in a god or God, the question was which one in particular do you serve? Allen noted that “The gods (and God) provided identity, security, and purpose in life. A household typically organized itself around the values and behaviors associated with its deity or deities. The god thus determined what the household did with its time, how it regarded other people, what it did with its material resources, what its hopes and fears might be.” Allen hastened to point out that “To be sure, for Luke, money is part and parcel of the old age. But material resources are not evil in and of themselves. The problem can become our attitudes and actions. People can use their financial resources in the service of the realm of God to promote the values and behaviors of the realm.”

As those who hear this story today Allen suggested that we ask a key question: “In our setting, how can we be as creative and bold, as those who operate according to the attitudes and actions of the old world?” Shaped by the values and perspective of God’s reign, how can we use the gifts of time, talent and money to serve God and make God’s reign a reality in our lives and congregation? Guided by God’s love may we be creative and bold Stewards who witness to God’s realm as it breaks into our world today. AMEN

Prayers & Praises

September 18, 2022

In Our Church Family:

- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Jessica Vocasek
- Harold Baker who is recovering pneumonia.
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Lois Frogge
- Joan Dietrich
- Mildred Brockemeyer

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of *Vic Burgess*
- Roger Christianson, with *stage 4 cancer, father of Brady Christianson*
- Laurie Aufdemberge, with *breast cancer, sister of Kristi Bowker*

Friends:

- Kirby Gould and family. *Her husband John Gould passed away after a stroke. The memorial service will be on the 23rd in Kansas City.*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart*
- Carson Mousel, *grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer*
- 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:

- SouthPointe Christian Church and Rev. Abby Conley

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Victor Makari serving in Israel/Palestine

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr, 2005

Loaves were broken,
words were spoken
by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of Life
from heaven,
was the food forevermore.

By your body
broken for us,
by your wine
of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Loaves were broken,
words were spoken
in a quiet room one night.
In the bread and wine
you gave them, Christ,
you came as Light from Light.

By your body
broken for us,
by your wine
of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Loaves are broken,
words are spoken,
as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages:
"I am with you, do not fear!"

By your body
broken for us,
by your wine
of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

By the loaves you break
and give us,
send us in your
name to share
bread for which
the millions hunger,
words that tell your
love and care.

By your body
broken for us,
by your wine
of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.