



**First Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ

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# Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

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Week of September 25, 2022



## Call to Worship

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

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 really see and acknowledge the Lazaruses in our community and world. Give us courage to perceive everyone as your named and beloved child, including ourselves. Do not let us avoid the unpleasant realities that surround us. Empower us to be the witnesses and agents of your Realm as it breaks into our world today.

AMEN

**One:** The word has come to us from God:

**Many:** who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.

**One:** The word has come to us from Jesus:

**Many:** who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.

**One:** The word flows to us from the Spirit:

**Many:** who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.

# Reflection

“We are all named and loved children of God”

*Meditation for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost*

I get a little suspicious when there are gaps in the lectionary readings. The lectionary does not plan to make its way through the entire Bible, but when it moves through most of the texts in a particular Gospel I find myself wondering about the sections left out. When pondering our Gospel lesson for today the omitted verses actually add some very important and needed context. Jesus told the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus to a particular audience for an important reason. In the verses between last week’s lesson and this week’s we are told that “The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they ridiculed him. So he said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of others; but God knows your hearts; for what is prized by human beings is an abomination in the sight of God.’” Then Jesus taught them what they should have already known, he discussed the Mosaic Law and how the faithful were meant to live with it as a guide throughout life. Jesus went on to point out that things were changing with the advent of John and with the proclamation of the Gospel by John and Jesus.

As we noted in previous weeks in our reflections on the Gospel of Luke as explained by Disciple pastor Rev. Dr. Ron Allen, the overarching theme of this Gospel is the coming of the Reign and Realm of God. As Jesus prepared to share the parable we have today, He wanted the religious folk of his time to recognize a new way of being that was being ushered in by Jesus and John. Jesus was pushing the faithful to begin looking at themselves and the world in a new and radical way. Now lest we think that Jesus is not talking to any of us, we have to recognize that when the Gospel talked about the Pharisees and Scribes the intent was to address the religiously observant people of his day. So as we hear the Gospel today we, as the religiously observant folk of our time, are invited to look at ourselves and our world through the eyes of the emerging Reign of God. We may not be “lovers of money” in the same way as those addressed directly by Jesus, but this story provides an invitation to see ourselves and our world differently?

There are so many interesting features in this story and I will only address a couple of them. First, did you notice? The Rich Man never has a name, and yet the other character does. Throughout the history of the early and medieval church there seemed to be some discomfort with this omission so

the Rich Man was given the name “Dives” which literally means Rich Man in Latin. While used by artist’s to describe depictions of this story, I still find that striking. The second character Lazarus has a Greek name which is the translation of the Hebrew name “Eleazar” which adds an ironic twist because it means “God blesses.” I cannot help but wonder if the omission of a name for the Rich Man was not intentional on the part of Jesus. Perhaps we are meant to “insert name here.” What if the invitation for us is to put ourselves in the place of the Rich Man? We may not be rich as he was, his rich garments of purple were a visible sign of that wealth. This man with no name also repeatedly demonstrated his self-centeredness. Even when in Hades he continued to look at things through the lenses of his earthly life. Roger J. Gench, a pastor in Baltimore, MD, commented on this passage in his article for *Lectionary Homiletics*. He noted that throughout this parable the Rich Man never really changes. Even while in Hades the Rich Man still looked upon Lazarus as a servant by asking him to give him water. In the end, he remained self-centered and only worried about himself and his own family. The rich man never directly addressed Lazarus or showed him any compassion.

In the same edition of *Lectionary Homiletics* David Reynolds, a pastoral counselor in Manchester, NH, suggested that this parable invites us to look deeper at ourselves and our culture. This parable was not meant as a glorification of poverty or a demonization of wealth. Instead, Margaret B. Hess in that same periodical invited those of us hearing this story to ask an important question, “where do we see Lazarus today?” She also suggested that this parable provides an opportunity to examine the difference between “fairness” and “justice.” So often we look at the Lazaruses of our day through the lens of fairness without considering the biblical invitation to view others through the lens of justice.

Like our parable last week, Jesus used the common rabbinic teaching tools of hyperbole and exaggeration. As we explore the many facets of this story we are invited to perceive ourselves, our culture and our world in new ways. We are invited to imagine the world as it will be in God’s Realm. We are invited to bring a little bit of God’s realm into our own lives and world today.

AMEN

# Scripture Reading

## Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my  
fortress;

my God, in whom I trust.'

For he will deliver you from the snare of the  
fowler

and from the deadly pestilence;

he will cover you with his pinions,

and under his wings you will find refuge;

his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

You will not fear the terror of the night,

or the arrow that flies by day,

or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,

or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

Those who love me, I will deliver;

I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble,

I will rescue them and honor them.

With long life I will satisfy them,

and show them my salvation.

## Luke 16:19-31

'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' '

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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!

# Prayers & Praises

## September 25, 2022

### In Our Church Family:

- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Jessica Vocasek
- Harold Baker *prayers for his hospice care.*
- 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:

- 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 recently, friend of Kristi Bowker*
- Sue Babovec, *recovering from heart surgery*

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- Southview Christian Church and  
Rev. Kerry O'Bryant

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Raul Santiago Rivera serving Puerto Rico

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

[www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



# Song of the Week

## Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

Text: Daniel Bechtel, 1986

Like a mother who has borne us,  
held us close in her delight,  
fed us freely from her body,  
God has called us into life.

Like a father who has taught us,  
grasped our hand and been our guide,  
lifted us and healed our sorrows,  
God has walked with us in life.

Through as children we have wandered,  
placed our trust in power and might,  
left behind our brothers, sisters,  
God still walks with us in life.

When we offer food and comfort,  
grasp our neighbor's hand in love,  
tread the path of peace and justice,  
God still walks with us in life.

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](http://fcclincoln.org) website to make an online donation via PayPal.