



**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

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Week of October 2nd, 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

Holy God, on this World Communion Sunday we give you thanks that we can all gather at your Table. We come to this Table in many different ways, but we all come. We celebrate all the ways in which we are alike, and at the same time, acknowledge with joy all the ways in which we are different. Thank you for placing your Table at the center of all our lives and in the midst of all our faith communities.

AMEN

One: We gather, bringing our fears and pain,  
Many: knowing that when our spirits have grown cold, God rekindles the gift of faith in us.

One: We gather, hanging our broken hearts on the branches of the tree of life,  
Many: knowing that while friends may turn against us, God transforms enemies into sisters and brothers.

One: We gather, hungering for healing and hope,  
Many: knowing that even when life is no picnic, God prepares a feast for us.

# Scripture Reading

## Lamentations 3:19-26

The thought of my affliction and my  
homelessness

is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it  
and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never  
ceases,

his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in him.'

The LORD is good to those who wait for  
him,

to the soul that seeks him.  
It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.

## Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord,  
'Increase our faith!' The Lord replied,  
'If you had faith the size of a mustard  
seed, you could say to this mulberry  
tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the  
sea", and it would obey you.

'Who among you would say to your  
slave who has just come in from  
ploughing or tending sheep in the  
field, "Come here at once and take  
your place at the table"? Would you  
not rather say to him, "Prepare supper  
for me, put on your apron and serve  
me while I eat and drink; later you  
may eat and drink"? Do you thank the  
slave for doing what was  
commanded? So you also, when you  
have done all that you were ordered to  
do, say, "We are worthless slaves; we  
have done only what we ought to have  
done!"'

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

# Reflection

“We can get along, and so much more”

*Meditation for World Communion Sunday*

Rodney King’s plaintive cry still rings out across the decades “Can’t we all just get along?” Although it has become the focus of many jokes and parodies, his words still ring a chord today. Rev. Dr. Ron Allen, Disciple pastor and author of stewardship material for the denomination, commented in his reflections on our Gospel lesson for today that this sentiment from King is the foundation of the human hunger for community. The author of the Gospel of Luke wanted to convey the importance of community to the early church. While our text has some troubling images, the basic desire of the author was to describe the elements of a strong and vital community of faith. Allen went on to point out that for Luke “...community involves welcoming and integrating people from across the human spectrum who repent and seek together to live in mutual solidarity, in love, peace, justice, dignity, with abundance for all, and in covenant with the natural world.” Allen went on to say that our Gospel lesson for today “... reminds us that stewardship has to do with all things that happen in and through Christian community and beyond.”

Like last week, we need to remember that the omitted verses before our passage today provides an important context. Again, Jesus was talking with the religious leaders of the day. He used their perspective and behavior as a contrast for the early Church. The author of our text wanted to help the early Christians better understand what it meant to be a community of faith and why it was so important. Throughout the Gospel of Luke the intent has been to describe the community of faith as a part of the new realm of God. Coming together as a community of faith began with “getting along” but it encompassed so much more. A community grounded and empowered by God lived in the world of their time but also held onto a vision of life in the realm of God. Getting along was a beginning that, hopefully, led to a deeper awareness of God’s call to include and enfold everyone. This new community based on the vision of God’s realm embodied God’s love, peace, justice, dignity and abundance. This newly

burgeoning community focused on what everyone had in common and, at the same time, celebrated the unique qualities of each of those who gathered.

On this World Communion Sunday we celebrate the worldwide communion of Christians who embody that kind of community. We honor our similarities and celebrate our differences. It is our text from the Hebrew scriptures that lifts up one of the core components of our worldwide community. Our text from the rarely read book of Lamentations articulates one of the core components of our human condition, the presence of suffering. This text is still read in many Jewish worship services as they lament the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 C.E. While it was written in response to a particular incident, this short book often enables those who suffer to articulate their pain. As we gather today we are mindful of our brothers and sisters around the globe who suffer. While our suffering may be one way in which we connect, we are reminded that we also connect through the hope of our faith. In the portion of the book we read from chapter three, we are reminded that it is the foundation of hope and trust in God that binds us together as well. Like Christian communities all around the globe, today, we gather at this Table. We come from many backgrounds and beliefs. We worship God in many varied and different ways. We gather around the Table of hope. We gather as those who hope and trust in God.

As we gather at the Table we exemplify the answer to Rodney King’s deep desire. At this Table we demonstrate the capacity “to get along.” We also come as unique expressions of God’s realm in our world today. We get along, but we know this is just the beginning for each of us. This unity is the foundation of our varied communities. We come as faithful and strong communities who rely on and trust in the same God. We represent many faith communities, we come to this Table in many different ways, but we all acknowledge that this Table is the focal point for us all.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## October 2, 2022

### In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Marvin Thurber
- Polly Putney
- William Deterding
- Lois Frogge
- Vic Burgess
- Joan Dietrich
- Jessica Vocasek
- Mildred Brockemeyer
- Harold Baker's *Family and friends as they mourn his passing*

### 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*
- 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:

- Unadilla Christian Church and their Interim Minister

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Rev. Anne E. Gregory serving in Thailand

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



# Song of the Week

## Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Text: George Atkins, 1819

Brethren, we have met to worship  
and adore the Lord our God.  
Will you pray with all your power  
while we try to preach the word?  
All is vain unless the Spirit  
of the holy One comes down.  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna  
will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you come and help us?  
Moses' sister aided him.  
Will you help the trembling mourners  
who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior.  
Tell them that he will be found.  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna  
will be showered all around.

Is there here a trembling jailer,  
seeking grace and filled with fears?  
Is there here a weeping Mary  
pouring forth a flood of tears?  
Brethren, join your cries to help them;  
sisters, let your prayers abound!  
Pray, O pray, that holy manna  
will be scattered all around.

Let us love our God supremely;  
let us love each other, too.  
Let us love and pray for sinners  
till our God makes all things new.  
Christ will call us home to heaven;  
at his table we'll sit down.  
Christ will gird himself and serve us  
with sweet manna all around.