



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
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries
Ethan Cai, Administrative Assistant

www.fcclincoln.org
info@fcclincoln.org

Week of October 16th, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: We come before God as equal in God's sight.

Many: God knows us thoroughly and loves us completely.

One: None of us is perfect and without blemish.

Many: Yet God has called us children and asked us to be compassionate and responsible in our caring and witness.

One: We are called to joyful obedience in God's realm.

Many: Thanks be to God who trusts us and pours abundant love on us.

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, we give thanks that you now abide in all our hearts. Although times are difficult and our world seems full of injustice, help us hold firmly onto your promise to abide with us and guide us. Help us make real your realm of love and justice in our lives and world today.

AMEN

Reflection

“Be of Good Courage”

Meditation for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Throughout these past couple of months we have spent some time reflecting on Luke’s vision of God’s reign. Guided by the reflections of Disciple pastor Rev. Dr. Ron Allen, we have explored the ways in which many of the parables and teachings of Jesus had the underlying theme of describing the coming Reign of God. Our passage from Luke today is no exception. Jesus told another parable that expressed, yet again, this underlying theme. Although, once again, Jesus was addressing specific questions and concerns, there is a timelessness about this parable. We are dealing with many of the same dynamics and issues now. It might be easy to shrug off the message of this parable by simply looking at the Judge as evil and the Widow as good. However, what if we simply looked at the Judge as a symbol of what is happening in our world today. There are many today who have no regard for God or God’s perspective. So, in this analogy, we are invited to see ourselves in the image of the Widow. Like the Widow we are called to be persistent and persevere. No matter how foolish it may seem to many in our culture, we must persist in sharing God’s vision of the world. God’s vision of the world is one of justice where everyone has what is needed.

So, following the example of the Widow, what might it mean for us to persevere and persist? The first step in this process is to remain courageous. The word “courage” comes from the Latin word which means “heart.” To have courage is to take heart. The online Merriam-Webster dictionary defines courage as “mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.” Both the prophet in in passage from Jeremiah and Jesus in the Gospel invite us to be courageous and “take heart.” Those to whom the prophet wrote had every reason to lose heart. They had seen the destruction of their beloved land and sacred Temple. They had been driven into exile. Things looked bad and they had every reason to despair. It was in this context that the prophet reminded them that God was with them and urged them to be courageous and take heart. Jeremiah went even further by urging them to become so intimate with God and God’s Law that it would now be written on their hearts. Then Jesus came along with a similar message and urged them “not to lose heart.” Things looked just as bleak for those

hearing his words as they did for those hearing the words of the prophet. They lived in an occupied land ruled by a foreign nation. They may not have been in literal exile, but in many ways they felt like foreigners in their own country.

In his article for Lectionary Homiletics on our passage from Luke Warren Carter, from Saint Paul’s School of Theology In Kansas City, MO commented that we might be tempted to fall prey to three temptations when reading this story. We might be tempted to live as if the world today is normative in God’s view. Second, we might be tempted to retreat from active discipleship and await God’s reign. Or third, we might be tempted to be so focused on current injustice that we despair of God’s eventual accomplishment of God’s “good and just saving purposes.” Carter suggested that our parable from Luke points us in a different direction that enables us to make a fourth choice. We are invited to consider that the world today is not the norm for people of faith. Retreat from the world and its problems is not an answer either. We are called to active discipleship. As those called to reflect God’s reign in the world today we are also called away from despair. Although injustice seems to be everywhere, we are called to pray that justice becomes a reality. We are called to take heart and be of good courage. As those who are intimately connect to God, we are invited to help usher in this reign today.

So, if we remain faithful to God’s call to “not lose heart” and pray for justice what might that look like? Carter went on to note: “This justice means the establishment of God’s good and life-giving reign that transforms unjust societal structures and ensures all have adequate access to resources.” Jesus continues to invite us “not to lose heart.” With God in our hearts may we have the courage to face these challenging times. May we, like our ancestors, pray for and actively be agents for God’s reign and justice in our world and our lives today.

AMEN

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 31:27-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. In those days they shall no longer say:

‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’
But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the LORD’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, “Grant me justice against my opponent.” For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, “Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.”’ And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’

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

October 16, 2022

In Our Church Family:

- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Jessica Vocasek
- Harold Baker's *Family and friends as they mourn his passing*
- 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*
- 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:

- Weeping Water First Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Lydia Yang serving in Korea

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling

Text: Charles Wesley, 1747

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.