



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 November 6, 2022



Public Worship will be held at 10:30 am Sunday morning.
If you are not quite ready to join us for public worship, we in-

Community Prayer

Living God, we give you thanks for the
new life all around us and within us.
Although we perceive death in our lives
and our world, we give you thanks that
you have the final word which is life.
Help us trust in your promises. We can
lay aside our fears knowing that we will
always abide in your presence. Just as
Jesus rose from the dead so will we.

AMEN

Call to Worship

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

One: The God who is greater than we will
ever understand,

Many: is humbled to become one of us.

One: The God who is more loving than
our hearts dare imagine,

Many: gives us more grace than we ever
realize.

One: The God who is wiser than we will
ever know,

Many: teaches us all we need to become
God's children.

Reflection

“What Happens When I Die”

Meditation for All Saints Sunday

In his article for Lectionary Homiletics Steve Frazier suggested that there are three basic questions that plague us as human beings.

1. Where did I come from?
2. What is the meaning and purpose of my life?
3. What happens when I die?

In our Gospel lesson for today, the seemingly frivolous question posed to Jesus by the Sadducees opened the door for a genuine answer to that third question. Today as we gather on this All Saints Sunday this latter question might be on our mind as well. This question has plagued us as long as human beings have walked the earth. Humans have created monuments that demonstrate the various beliefs about death and the afterlife. From the pyramid tombs of the Egyptians to the impressive grave markers that fill our cemeteries, we have evidence of the evolving beliefs of humanity. Such breathtaking monuments demonstrate Our concern with this third question. “What will happen to me when I die?”

As our passage opens we are told in verses 27 and 28 “Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question. Scholars point out that the idea of the resurrection of the dead can be traced back to some Hebrew Scriptures. During the time of Jesus there were those who believed in the resurrection and those who did not. The Sadducees in our story, however, come with their fixed beliefs and have no interest in changing their minds. Instead, they used their encounter with Jesus as an opportunity to test him. In the same issue of Lectionary Homiletics in the Theological themes Kristin Johnston Largen from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA pointed out that the Sadducees had no desire to learn and grow as a result of their time with Jesus. She went on to quote well-known Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) preacher Fred Craddock. “Here the question comes to Jesus with no personal investment on the part of the interrogators; their aim is to argue, to embarrass, to force Jesus into one

particular school of thought, or perhaps just to divide the audience. There is among them no spirit of inquiry or desire to learn.”

Largen went on to passionately point out:

“Thus, the Gospel message in this text comes in Jesus’ refused to get caught up in a meaningless thought-exercise, and his insistence on proclaiming the here-and-now reality of God’s salvation. The dead are raised-contrary to what the Sadducees think, this life is not the end. God has greater things in store for us than what we have thus far experienced, and if they would read again their Scriptures, as Jesus instructs them, they would see that even Moses knew that was the case. “

More importantly, Jesus reminded them that the God they worship is the God of the living. Unlike the Sadducees of Jesus’ time we know that Jesus did not simply teach about the resurrection, he lived it. Through his life, death and resurrection Jesus embodied the reality of life eternal. As we have pondered throughout our journey through the Gospel of Luke as led by the reflections of Rev. Dr. Ron Allen, we are invited to set aside the beliefs of the old world which were embodied by the Sadducees in our story today. Instead, we are invited to embrace the realities of God’s reign. We are called to set aside the things of death that divide us. We are called from the path of death by the promises of life. WE do not know all the details involved, but we can answer the third question with confidence. “What will happen to me when I die?” Like Jesus, we will experience resurrection and forever rest in the full presence of God.

At the beginning of every funeral AND memorial service we have these words from the 11th chapter of the Gospel of John. “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” We need no other response our question than this.

AMEN

Scripture Reading

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month.

In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the LORD; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the LORD; work, for I am with you, says the LORD of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts.

Luke 20:27-38

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.'

Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

Prayers & Praises

November 6, 2022

In Our Church Family:

- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Jessica Vocasek
- 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
- Nicole Lee, as she recovers in the hospital, mother of Leigh Lestina

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:

- Nebraska Regional Board, Committees & Staff

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Cindy Moraga serving in Mexico

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



Song of the Week

Shall We Gather at the River

Text: Robert Lowry, 1864

I Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river;
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.