



**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 November 13, 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 invite you to follow along with this printed service.

## Community Prayer

God of all the ages, empower us to live and thrive as people of hope. Things look bad and life is often difficult, but we rejoice that you are with us. Help us trust in the transformation that you bring and enable us to join you as your agents of that transformation. As we present our pledges for the coming year, bless these promises we make and all who make them.

AMEN

## Call to Worship

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

One: This Day! This day we give thanks to our God who has saved us, who strengthens us.

Many: This Day! This day we praise our God for every blessing; telling everyone of God's amazing grace in our lives and in our world.

One: This Day! This day our songs are filled with joy, for God is with us, this day and in all the days to come!

# Reflection

“The End is NOT Near....”

## *Meditation for 23rd Sunday after Pentecost*

I have a cartoon I found several years ago that still makes me smile. A prophetic figure in a simple garment with sandals on his feet holds a sign that says “The End is NOT near-You Must Learn to Cope!” Our passage today from the Gospel of Luke is often referred to as a “Little Apocalypse.” By this scholars mean that this text uses language and imagery about the end of existence as we know it and the in-breaking of God’s reign. Rev. Dr. Ron Allen reminds us in his reflections on this text for the denominational stewardship material that “Luke 21:5-24 is written in the style of “prophecy after the fact.” That is, Luke employs a convention from ancient literature in which the writer puts words foretelling the future into the mouth of a character, when those words actually refer to things that have happened or continue to happen.” Although many people read this material literally, we are invited to consider the context of this passage and the literary style employed. I suspect passages like today’s make many of us uncomfortable because we are uncertain about how they fit into our modern understandings of God and the Bible.

In many ways, the purpose of our text today was not to frighten us into belief but to bring us words of hope. Allen went on to point out that “The overarching function of this passage is to offer hope to Luke’s congregation as it makes its way through a difficult present...The passage asks the community to believe that things happening in its world are signs that God is actively in the process of transforming the world. “ While this is a specific literary style, as a part of scripture it also presents a timeless message. The “signs” we perceive today may be different in specifics, but the basic qualities remain. War, poverty, injustice, fear, separation, scarcity and apathy are all elements of human existence throughout time. Their specific expressions vary; war in Ukraine, inflation and poverty at home, racial injustice, fear of the other, the list goes on and on. The other basic quality that exists now as it did in the time of

Luke is hope. God continues to be active in the transformation of the world and invites us to be participants in that active transformation. Our stewardship is one way we can participate in that transformation. While reality today can be difficult and painful, as it was for those in the early church, Allen invites us to ask ourselves some key questions.

How would God like to transform these situations in realm-like ways?

How might our practice of stewardship point to God’s realm-purposes in relationship to these signs?

What might we do to alleviate suffering in these situations?

How might we join God in trying to move the situation in the direction of the realm?

As we prepare to dedicate our pledges today we are invited to ponder how our stewardship will enable us, as individuals and as a congregation, to continue ushering in the realm of God. As our Finance Team prepares the congregational budget there will be some concrete ways in which we are invited to participate in God’s transformation. Our budget will help shape how we use our resources to embody the realm of God; how we use our building, how we worship God, how we reach out to those in need in our community, how we care for members and friends, how we welcome people and how we live out the mandate to love one another. I believe reality may be closer to the depiction in my cartoon than we would like to believe. “The End is NOT near-You Must Learn to Cope!” Our hope comes in an awareness that not only must we cope with all that is happening in our lives and world, we are called to thrive and to invite those around us to do the same.

**AMEN**

# Scripture Reading

## Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.  
But be glad and rejoice for ever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in  
it,  
or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a  
lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be  
considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be  
considered accursed.  
They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my  
people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of  
their hands.  
They shall not labour in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—  
and their descendants as well.  
Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the Lord.

## Luke 21:5-19

When some were speaking about the temple,  
how it was adorned with beautiful stones  
and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for  
these things that you see, the days will come  
when not one stone will be left upon another;  
all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be,  
and what will be the sign that this is about to  
take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are  
not led astray; for many will come in my  
name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is  
near!" Do not go after them.'

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do  
not be terrified; for these things must take  
place first, but the end will not follow  
immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation  
will rise against nation, and kingdom against  
kingdom; there will be great earthquakes,  
and in various places famines and plagues;  
and there will be dreadful portents and great  
signs from heaven.'

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest  
you and persecute you; they will hand you  
over to synagogues and prisons, and you will  
be brought before kings and governors  
because of my name. This will give you an  
opportunity to testify. So make up your  
minds not to prepare your defense in  
advance; for I will give you words and a  
wisdom that none of your opponents will be  
able to withstand or contradict. You will be  
betrayed even by parents and brothers, by  
relatives and friends; and they will put some  
of you to death. You will be hated by all  
because of my name. But not a hair of your  
head will perish. By your endurance you will  
gain your souls.'

# Prayers & Praises

## November 13, 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:

- Retired Ministers in Nebraska

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Leda Zakarison serving in Lebanon

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



# Song of the Week

## Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Text: Joachim Neander, 1680

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the  
King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
health and salvation!  
All ye who hear,  
now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things  
so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so  
gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen  
how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in  
me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now  
with praises before him!  
Let the amen  
sound from his people again;  
gladly for aye we adore him.