



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
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Week of January 8th, 2023



Public Worship will be held at 10:30 am Sunday morning.

Call to Worship

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

One: When we are reluctant to dip our toes into faith's river,
Many: Jesus comes, to teach us how to swim.

One: When we are hesitant to cup our hands to drink from the fountain of grace,
Many: Jesus comes, to reach in and splash our faces with God's joy.

One: When we are unwilling to be the pipeline of hope,
All: Jesus comes, to turn on the faucets God has installed in our hearts.

A Note to First Christian Church from The Rev. Bruce Frogge

January 1, 2023

There are moments in life when a virus decides to be the proverbial wrench in some of the best-laid plans. Yes, I tested positive for COVID and thus, I am unable to preach at First Christian Church. Disappointed does not even begin to communicate how I am feeling in this moment. Though it has been almost forty years since I graduated from high school in Lincoln and headed off to college, I still consider First Christian Church in Lincoln to be my home congregation. Every few months, the church I am serving hears some story about my formative years at 430 South 16th Street or Kamp Kaleo in Burwell. When I was young and living in the moment, there was very little appreciation for all I received from the people at FCC. Today, I cannot include all that I am able to name, let alone all I have yet to realize.

On the first Sunday of the new year, my plan was to preach on the story from Matthew 2, the story of the Holy Family escaping to Egypt because of Herod's paranoia that led to the killing of Bethlehem's children. It's interesting to me how the name Jesus is the Greek version of the Hebrew name, Joshua, which means: The Lord saves. However, the one who came to save escaped the threat of violence only because an angel came to save him. I love how scripture turns things upside down, or maybe right side up. The one person most people least expected to have any impact on the world was the very one who would change its trajectory forever. It almost sounds absurd.

When I worked on staff at Kamp Kaleo years ago, at the end of an amazing week of camp, I was often asked why the rest of the world couldn't be a little more like camp? The young people wanted to know why they had to go back to the "real" world. I offered an alternative view. Maybe camp was a little closer to God's vision for the world. Maybe Kamp Kaleo was God's real world, and because we experienced camp together, the rest of the world would be nudged in the direction of God's holy vision. Today, I still believe it to be true. Maybe a little absurd, but true.

So often the church has chosen the normal, the conventional, the ordinary, when in fact, we were born out of the absurd; created for the extraordinary; called forth to be shockingly and sacredly distinctive in the likeness of Jesus. The people of First Christian Church, the Christian Church in Nebraska, and Kamp Kaleo introduced me to a faith that refused to be ordinary. Again and again, I was challenged to think differently and to strive toward something even greater—which strangely was and is never "great" as the world defines the word. In fact, it is often what leaves folks scratching their heads and saying, "That sure sounds absurd."

I so wish I could have changed the multiple COVID tests I took to a negative result, but all the wishing in the world did not work. In today's environment, I know people understand, yet it still left First Christian Church in a bit of a bad place. And for that, I am sorry. Please know I lift you in prayer often, and I am thankful for the kindness and grace you show my mother in this time. I am so thankful for a church that still seeks what some might call absurd. We simply know it as the limitless and relentless love of God, born into the world.

Grace & Peace,
Bruce Frogge

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not
quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched
them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes
from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in
righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

First Christian Church Pulpit Supply January to April 2023

Jan. 8 – Melissa Strong
Jan. 15 – Kara Hillhouse
Jan. 22 – Kara Hillhouse
Jan. 29 – Rachel Johnson

Feb. 5 – Kara Hillhouse
Feb. 12 – Melissa Strong
Feb. 19 – Kara Hillhouse
Feb. 26 – Kara Hillhouse

Mar. 5 – Melissa Strong
Mar. 12 – Melissa Strong
Mar. 19 – Kara Hillhouse
Mar. 26 – Kara Hillhouse

Prayers & Praises January 8th, 2023

Song of the Week

Fairest Lord Jesus

Text: Münster Gesangbuch 1677

- In Our Church Family:
- Donna Baker
 - Marvin Thurber
 - William Deterding
 - Vic Burgess
 - Jessica Vocasek
 - Relda Lathrop
 - Susan Pallas-Duncan
 - Polly Putney
 - Lois Frogge
 - Joan Dietrich
 - Mildred Brockemeyer
 - Bobbi Carlin
 - Karen Moritz

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of *Vic Burgess*
- Laurie Aufdemberge, with *breast cancer*,
sister of Kristi Bowker

Friends:

- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt*
- Carson Mousel, *grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz*,
from Mildred Brockemeyer

Our Timothy's:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Alliance First Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Our Missionaries on the Korean Peninsula

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



Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish,
thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer;
Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter;
Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior,
Ruler of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

We Welcome the Reverend Melissa Strong on January 8th

Melissa is the Service Leader for Spiritual Care Services for Methodist Hospital and Methodist Women's Hospital in Omaha where she has been for 8½ years. In July she celebrated her 10-year ordination anniversary in the Christian Church (DOC). Melissa is married to Geoffrey and they have one living daughter, Aryana, who is 5 years old.