



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. Kara Hillhouse, Interim Pastor
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries
Ethan Cai, Administrative Assistant

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Week of July 23rd, 2023



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

Community Prayer

O God of Jacob,
you speak in the light of day
and in the dark of night
when our sleeping is filled with dreams of heaven and earth.
May Jacob's vision
remind us to be open and watchful,
ready to discover your presence in our midst .

Amen.

Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

Feel free to follow along with our Call to
Worship from the live-streamed worship
service on Sunday.

One: Early in the morning, we come to this holy
place of worship,

Many: to be touched by the One who offers
us grace and love.

One: Early in the morning, we worship God,
who adopts us into the family,

Many: to be filled by the One who would
pour us out in service to the world.

First Christian Welcomes Rev. Melissa Strong to the pulpit on July 23rd.

Sermon Title: A Mixed Bag

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 6 years old.

Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." '

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Prayers & Praises

July 23, 2023

Song of the Week

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Text: George Atkins, 1819

In Our Church Family:

- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Jessica Vocasek
- Relda Lathrop
- Bobbi Carlin
- Rae-Hope Putney
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Lois Frogge
- Joan Dietrich
- Mildred Brockemeyer
- Karen Moritz
- Nicole Lee, *prayers for strength, Mother of Leigh Lestina*
- Tito Vigan, *continue to gain mobility and strength as he recovers from a spinal stroke. Sara Mason's husband*

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess

Friends:

- Tammy Foral, *healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart*
- Carson Mousel, *grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- North Side Christian Church, Omaha and Jonathan Wilhoft

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Missionaries in Korea

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



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.

The Wired WORD

An Adult Curriculum