



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 September 3rd, 2023



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

Community Prayer

In the flaming bush
you promised deliverance to your people, O
God,
and in the cross of Jesus
you embraced our suffering and pain.
In times of misery,
show us the transforming power of your love
that we may know the hope of your glory.
Amen.

Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
copyright 2002 Consultation on Common Texts

Call to Worship

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

One: Gathered as God's people, we come to
worship together:

Many: singing praises to the One who loves us,
opening our hearts to the One who calls us.

One: Challenged to follow Jesus to the end, we
come to learn how to be disciples:

Many: offering our food to our enemies, giving a
drink of water to those who have drained our
souls.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse
"To the Cross"

The cross was a chilling and terrifying symbol of death and punishment in the time of Christ. Crosses would at times line the roads outside of Jerusalem as a visual reminder to anyone walking by that the Roman empire would crush them should they step out of line or cause any trouble. There was nothing good about a cross. And yet it is this symbol that Jesus clings to when he explains to his disciples what they will need to do in order to follow him-- "take up your cross and follow me." Today, you and I find comfort and hope in the cross, because it speaks of God's deep love for us through Jesus Christ. But to the disciples "taking up their cross" was a death sentence. Really, it is no different for us today: taking up our cross IS a death sentence, as Jesus said, "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

Taking up our cross means being "dead to sin and alive to God through Jesus Christ." So the cross is still a symbol of letting go of one life (the one that is separate from Christ) and taking on a different life (one that is worthy of our calling.) Join us for worship this Sunday, where we'll explore Matthew 16:21-28-- "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." We look forward to having you join us--in person or online--for a time of music, the Word, the Lord's Supper and fellowship. We'll see you there!

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Prayers & Praises

September 3rd, 2023

Song of the Week

To God Be the Glory

Text: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875

In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Mildred Brockemeyer
- Vic Burgess
- Bobbi Carlin
- William Deterding
- Joan Dietrich
- Sharon Hile
- Polly Putney
- Rae-Hope Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Nicole Lee, *prayers for strength, Mother of Leigh Lestina*

Friends:

- Tammy Foral, *healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt*
- 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:

- Schubert Christian Church and Rev. Dennis Fulbright

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mission partners in the Philippines

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



To God be the glory; great things he
has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us
his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for
sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go
in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the
earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the
people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the
Son,
and give him the glory: great things he
has done!

Great things he has taught us; great
things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus
the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will
be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus
we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the
earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the
people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the
Son,
and give him the glory: great things he
has done!