



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

Kelly Tyrrell, Church Administrator

Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader

www.fcclincoln.org

info@fcclincoln.org

Week of March, 29, 2020



In the face of COVID-19 and the recommended closing of public spaces, First Christian Church is devoted to bringing worship to you. Please reach out to the church office if you are in need of assistance or help.

We will NOT be having Worship Service Sunday at the Church.

In the spirit of community and fellowship, we ask that you follow along with this printed service. Find a comfortable place to be, relax your body, and calm your mind. Try to come into a prayerful mindset. As you pray the community prayer, remember, your fellow congregants at First Christian will be praying this along with you. Feel free to keep this prayer to pray all week.

Community Prayer

O loving God, it is in times like these that we truly understand that you made us to be in community with one another. While we pray in solitude, missing the ones we love, we also pray in thanksgiving, that you have gifted us with so many lovely souls to miss. Grant us the perseverance to look for ways to be of help. Let your Spirit encourage us to be a glimmer of Christ to those we encounter. God, fill us with positivity in the light of the negativity that surrounds us. We pray in the name of your greatest gift, your Son Jesus. Amen.

Check out our weekly video at www.fcclincoln.org, First Christian's Facebook page, or search for First Christian Church, Lincoln, Nebraska on YouTube. Last week's video had 63 views! Thank you!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NA59nVCifbU>

Worship Playlist

Unfortunately, one piece of the worship service that we cannot replicate on paper is our wonderful music ministry. Below are links to the songs for this week's worship and reflection. If you have access to the internet, you can type in the links below - OR - you can type the name of each song into YouTube's search engine to enjoy the music this week.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5keJHZdWYM>

Performed by The Mountain Anthems

Yes I Will

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrTv39-lG4M>

Performed by Vertical Worship

Even though the Church building is closed for worship, our operation costs still continue. Please continue your regular giving to the church in addition to your faith giving. The FCC office is accepting checks at 430 S. 16th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. We can also mail you a debit authorization form to do automatic withdrawals. Finally, there is a "GIVE" button on the top right-hand side of the fcclincoln.org website to make an online donation via PayPal.

Scripture

Psalm 130

Waiting for Divine Redemption

A Song of Ascents.
Out of the depths I cry to
you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my sup-
plications!

If you, O LORD, should
mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness
with you,
so that you may be
revered.

I wait for the LORD, my
soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who
watch for the morning,
more than those who
watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in
the LORD!

For with the LORD there
is steadfast love,
and with him is great
power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem
Israel
from all its iniquities.

Reflection

“Meditation for the Fifth Week of Lent”

The readings for this 5th week in Lent are all very powerful. I invite you to take time and read about the valley of the dry bones in Ezekiel 37:1-14. Our Gospel lesson for this week is the 11th chapter of John which tells the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

You may sense a theme; death to new life. As we move closer to Easter this is a dominant theme. It also seems fitting as we ponder all that is happening in the world now. Like Lazarus we may feel trapped inside, in this case our homes and apartments. We yearn for signs that this will all be over soon. We may struggle with a sense of loss and grief as our life is turned upside-down. We yearn, even more than usual, for signs of new life.

The Psalmist guides us on how to pray in such times. The author of Psalm 130 invites us to lift our prayer of lament to God.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

We don't know what struggles the Psalmist faced, but we do know there was tremendous anguish in this cry to God. In these strange and difficult times, it's important to share our deepest feelings with God and others as we are able to do so. It might be a good time to start, or renew, the practice of journaling. Perhaps you're artistic; use art to express your feelings. For the musicians among us, rely on music in these days. The Psalmist reminds us that our feelings and experiences are important and we

are invited to share them, particularly with God.

As we spend time on our own in prayer we, like the Psalmist, may become aware of the ways in which we fall short of God's intent for us. We may become keenly aware of our shortcomings.

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered

But, as the Psalmist reminds us, our sinfulness is not the end of the matter. God's forgiveness is there for us. And then the Psalmist invites us to do perhaps the most challenging thing for us, especially now:

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning; more than those who watch for the morning.

We are invited to wait and hope. Neither of these is passive. Waiting and hoping rely on our intention and our action. As people of faith we are invited to wait upon the Lord and find hope.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

We wait and hope, both as individuals and as part of a community. In these challenging times, we are reminded that we are part of a global community that waits and hopes. May we find solace in our solidarity and courage to lament and cry out to God.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

March 29, 2020

In Our Church Family:

- William Deterding
- Betty Ferguson
- Rose Dow
- Our sympathy to Tom Mason and his family at the passing of his mother, March 19, 2020
- Our sympathy to Gene Brockmeyer's family at his passing, March, 20, 2020

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Friends and Family of Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Herb, *prayers for health and wellness, cousin of Tom Mason*
- Jill Snodgrass, *prayers for upcoming aneurysm surgery, from Marj Snodgrass*
- Stephanie, *prayers for upcoming surgery on a frontal lobe tumor, cousin of Vince Ortega*
- Tony's parents, *prayers for safe international travel, from Tony Flack*
- Stephen Lawrence, *in ICU for treatment in Fresno, CA, brother of Lois Frogge*

Friends:

- Pam Larsen, *continuing to fight cancer, friend of Marcia Foster*
- Peggy Westburg, *prayers during chemotherapy, friend of Lindsay Swanson*
- Karen, *during cancer treatments, co-worker of Rhonda Ball*
- Dianna Clark, *prayers for health concerns and upcoming tests*
- Prayers for a co-worker, *who was paralyzed in an accident, from Carla Pinneo*
- Dennis, *battling cancer, friend of the Effle Family*
- Skip & Jo Thomas, *prayers while they make hard medical decisions, friends of Harold & Donna Baker*
- Will Barrett, *for healing with gut issues, high-school aged neighbor of the Blossers*
- Neici Rodriguez, *prayers for mental health and employment*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Elmwood Christian Church and Rev. Jim Gordon
- Elwood FCC

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Debbie Colvin serving in Ghana
- Karen Campbell-Nelson serving in Indonesia

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



Praying the Psalms

Psalm 130

In the long history of praying the psalms, a variety of practices have developed. Among them:

- ♦ Take some time to prayerfully read the Psalms, and then to consider your own life at that moment. Using God's word as a model, how would you give voice to the cry of your heart? What metaphors and images would you use? How do you see God present in your circumstances?
- ♦ Prayerfully read a psalm that has been meaningful for you. How would you re-write it, given your experience?
- ♦ Don't try to read too much. Make part of your daily devotional reading one psalm a day.
- ♦ Find a schedule of readings, from our *Book of Common Worship* for example, that provides some structure to the psalter.
- ♦ Consider following the example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and stay with one text for an entire week at a time.

“I read the psalms every day, as I have done for years; I know them and love them more than any other book.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*.

Adapted from Office of Spiritual Formation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)