



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 April 5, 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

Eternal and loving God, today we celebrate your Son's entry into Jerusalem. Yet amidst the celebration, we know the desperation part of the story that is about to come. Lord, you have given us the opportunity this Lent, not to play at giving up things we shouldn't have been doing in the first place, but to truly sacrifice that which is good for us, like human contact. May we pray to you this day that we can appreciate how small our sacrifice is compared to the one Jesus makes for all of us. It is in his name that we pray, 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. Thank you!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al63lszxZyE>

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.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3a8fTTrAdE)

[v=h3a8fTTrAdE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3a8fTTrAdE)

From Worship On YT

Hosanna

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoz5wpycqvw)

[v=xoz5wpycqvw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoz5wpycqvw)

Performed by Paul Baloché

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

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus's Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem

²¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' ⁴This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

⁶The disciples went and did

as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' ¹¹The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Reflection

“Meditation for Palm Sunday”

*The crowds that went ahead of him
and that followed were shouting,
“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord! Hosanna in the
highest heaven!”*

Matthew 21:9

This year, Palm Sunday will look a bit different. No palm procession with the children, no crowds gathering for worship, no palm branches waving. This year, we're invited to a virtual parade, not necessarily on our computers, tablets, or phones, but in our imaginations. Although we cannot physically gather together in one place for worship, we can still worship and participate in this important part of the life of Jesus. In our worship material this week, we have another spiritual exercise to aid you. We are invited to participate in this event with our hearts and imaginations.

As the crowds gathered they shouted “Hosanna to the Son of David.” The notes in the NRSV indicate that this word “hosanna” comes from the Hebrew and originally meant “O Save!” Later it becomes “a cry of joyous acclamation.” In fact, the author of Matthew seems to take this entire portion from Psalm 118:26. This Psalm is one of the readings for Palm Sunday and you may want to take some time to read it this week. One commentator, the author of The Anchor Bible Commentary on Matthew, notes that “hosanna” was originally intended as a “prayer for

deliverance” and literally meant “save now!” This commentator speculated that the passage should read “O Son of David save us” not as praise “to” the Son of David. So, at this point, you may be shaking your head and wondering where your nerdy pastor is going with all this. Well, I find it striking that those early crowds were really shouting out their distress and expressing their desire to be saved by God in the midst of their praise and celebration. Perhaps this passage is more fitting for our times than we had ever imagined. If there was ever a time to pray fervently to God with our desire to be saved, it would be now.

As this familiar passage draws to a close the author says: “When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”” (Verses 10-11). We are told that Jerusalem was “in turmoil” or, as our commentator from the Anchor Bible put it, the city was stirred up. We may not outwardly see the signs of turmoil but we all know it is present across the globe. In this time of turmoil we, like the crowd around Jesus, are invited to call out to God and to bear witness to God’s coming in the Christ. Although we cannot gather in person, we are still called upon to proclaim the Good News of God’s presence in our midst and in our world.

“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” May these words ring in our hearts and across our world this Palm Sunday and always!

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

April 5, 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 Brockemeyer's family at his passing, March, 20, 2020
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Friends and Family of Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Herb, *prayers for health and wellness, cousin of Tom Mason*
- 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*
- Stella, *pray for healing, showing symptoms of coronavirus, granddaughter of Carla Pinneo*

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



Imaginative Visualization

Matthew 21:1-11

Read through your text two or three times, to become familiar with it.

Use your imagination to enter into the scene you are reading about. What is the setting of the story? What are the sights, the sounds, the aromas? Who else is there in the story? What do they look like? What expressions do their faces reveal? Explore the scene as fully as you can with all your imaginative senses.

Where are you in the story, in relation to the other participants? Are you one of the religious leaders? A member of the crowd? In the foreground, or the background? What is your role in this drama?

Let the story unfold and develop in your imagination. Does someone speak to you? What do they say? What do you say in reply? Is there other action, and do you play a part in it? What are your feelings as the scene evolves?

After the action has concluded, what do you do? Do you go somewhere, or tell someone? What do you tell them about what you just experienced? How do you describe the meaning of what has happened?

Allow your attention to come back to the present, being open to any insights or questions that may have arisen.

Reprinted from "In the One Spirit: Paul's First Letter to the Christians in Corinth," by Kristine A. Haig, Office of Spiritual Formation, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)