



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 Lugin, Stephen Ministry Leader

www.fcclincoln.org

info@fcclincoln.org

Week of April 9, 2020



We will NOT be having Worship 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

Creating and sustaining God, we come to you on this special day of worship with hearts longing to be obedient to you. We long to be filled with your Spirit of love, to love one another as you have loved us. But, O God, it is hard to love our neighbor, our enemy, our "other." How do we love when we feel no love in return? Guide us, Lord, and give us strength to endure in compassion, even when we feel alone, fearful, and full of doubt. Give us the courage to trust in you, that others may know we follow you by our love. In the name of 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. Thank you!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wvDNHIN6og>

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.

What Wondrous Love Is This

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-UmemwpAvA)

[v=n-UmemwpAvA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-UmemwpAvA)

Performed by Fernando Ortega

Carry Your Name

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYp4WEdl-LY)

[v=TYp4WEdl-LY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYp4WEdl-LY)

Performed by Christy Nockels

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.

Scriptures

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

John 13:31-35

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

Reflection

“Meditation for Maundy Thursday”

In the age of physical distancing, the people attending the meal in the upper room would have incurred a fine for having a gathering of over 10 people. However, it's easy to forget that the meal we usually celebrate with a soup supper and a worship service was actually a small gathering of friends. Jesus gathered with those closest to him, his twelve disciples, and shared a Passover meal with them.

As we think about the Last Supper, it's easy to conflate all the Gospel accounts into one story line. Even so, each Gospel writer provided a unique perspective on that final evening Jesus spent as a human being. The passage for this evening joins an already well-developed story.

Jesus has gathered with his closest friends to share the Passover meal, but he adds a new element, he washes the Disciples' feet. He does this to model what he is telling them about the nature of love. Love, for Jesus, is more than a warm feeling of affection. Love involves serving God and one another. A theme that weaves its way

throughout this part of the story is the betrayal of Judas. Judas provides a counterpoint to the message of true love.

As we observe this night, perhaps on our own or with immediate family or dear friends, we are invited to embrace the meaning of this event. Not only are we invited to embrace this story, we are invited to participate in it. As we move through these days of self-isolation and physical distancing, we are invited to ponder the true meaning of servant love. We have a unique opportunity to imagine ourselves in the intimate meal with our Lord.

How might we show this kind of love in the midst of our current situation? It may be in actions as simple as sharing a meal. Tonight as you watch our worship video, you join all those who are doing the same. We may not be in the same physical space but we are bound together in love. I invite you to use your imagination, as I stand behind the Table you are spiritually invited into that space as well.

May the joy of a shared meal with our Lord and those we love empower us to serve in the true spirit of love.

In God's Service,
Pastor Karen

Prayers & Praises

April 9, 2020

In Our Church Family:

- William Deterding
- Betty Ferguson
- Our sympathy to Gene Brockmeyer's family at his passing, March, 20, 2020
- Our sympathy to Rose Dow's family at her passing March 30, 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*
- Stella, *prayers for healing, 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:

- Fairbury FCC and Rev. Darlene Novotny
- Faith Christian Church, Omaha and Rev. Lisa Sherman

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Phyllis Byrd serving in Kenya

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



Weekly Spiritual Practice

The Jesus Prayer

“The Jesus Prayer” refers to a short prayer, the words of which are: ‘Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner,’ constantly repeated. The Jesus Prayer is known to innumerable Orthodox and many other Christians as a form of devotion that can be used at any moment, whatever the situation. As Anthony Bloom notes,

“It is a very companionable prayer, a friendly one, always at hand and very individual in spite of its monotonous repetitions. Whether in joy or in sorrow, it is, when it has become habitual, a quickening of the soul, a response to any call of God.”

The main emphasis is on the repetition of the prayer; it can be said while sitting, walking, or working, silently or aloud.

From: *Living Prayer* by Anthony Bloom (Springfield: Templegate Publishers, 1966), 84-88.



Don't forget, the 24-Hour Prayer Vigil starts tomorrow, Good Friday, April 10, 2020 at 1:00 pm. Everyone will be praying from home. There are still a few hours available. See the Sign-Up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b49ada823a3f49-24hour> or email into the church office at info@fcclincn.org. This is such a precious time of prayer for First Christian Church. Thank you so much for your continued participation.