



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 12, 2020



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

Death-defying God, we come to you in thanksgiving and praise today! Your Son Jesus is Risen to be our Christ and Savior! We stand in awe of your power, and we live forever-changed by your life-giving salvation, made known to us through your Son, Jesus. We give you thanks, O God, for the women who, though filled with fear, spread the good news of Jesus's resurrection. Fill us with your Spirit that we may not be afraid to spread the good news to others. How blessed we are to be your people. Alleluia, thanks to be to you, God of all people. 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=oZsSRTnQ78I>

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.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzy7jFNUc3w>

Performed by Joslin Grove Choral Society

Happy Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1WPGWflvwU>

Performed by Tim Hughes

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 28:1-10

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.

Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.’ ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

Reflection

“Meditation for Easter Sunday”

“So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy” Mt. 28:8

With the modern trappings of Easter, it's easy to forget what the first Easter must have been like for the first Disciples and followers of Jesus. There was no Easter breakfast with church friends and family, no sanctuary festooned with Easter Lilies, no children providing joyous music for the celebration. The first Easter was a time of anxiety, fear and uncertainty. No one knew how to interpret the events of the past few days. They had witnessed the horror of crucifixion, where they had seen their beloved teacher and friend die a horrible and grisly death. They had seen Roman soldiers all around, even at the tomb where they laid the body of Jesus.

We are told in other accounts that the Disciples hid in an upper room. Only two of the women ventured forth to tend to his body. When they arrive at the tomb they encountered more fearful things. First, there is a great earthquake, frightening enough on its own, then an angel of God appears and rolls away the massive stone. The sight is so fearful that grown men shake in their sandals and faint. The two women probably stood huddled together in terror, evident to the angel who tries to comfort them by inviting them to not be afraid. The angel knows they have come seeking Jesus and he tells them to go and tell the others that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

So, they do as they are told and hurry to tell the Disciples what they have seen and heard. The author of this Gospel tells us in verse 8: “So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.” As they are leaving they encounter the

Risen Lord who greets them. They fall at his feet and worship him, and he also tells them “do not be afraid.” Jesus also gives them a message for the Disciples, he will meet them in Galilee.

In reality, it is a simple story with less than ten characters; they would have fit well into the mandate of gatherings with ten people or less. They would have been able to physically distance. They probably experienced some of the same feelings that plague many of us today. They came in love to perform one last act of service for their teacher and friend, to finish the preparations for his burial. They expected to see and attend to his dead body. Undoubtedly, they came with heavy and grieving hearts. Their initial fear probably had more to do with encountering the guards and wondering what reception they would receive. They came bravely into a setting that changed rapidly and they encountered many unexpected events.

This first Easter was full of fear, uncertainty, and isolation. However, it was love that gave them a foundation; their love for Jesus and, as it turned out, his love for them. Love gave them courage to set out in the pre-dawn hours to tend to their teacher and friend. Love enabled them to stand firm in the midst of an earthquake and the appearance of a heavenly being. Love opened their heart to recognize and worship the Lord.

Love will empower us in these uncertain times. God's love for us, our love for God, our love for one another, and our world. Just like the earliest followers of Jesus, love will enable us to withstand isolation and fear. God's love will sustain us, even in these fearful times. Amidst our fear and joy, may we hear with confidence the words of the angel and of Jesus; “do not be afraid.”

With great joy,
Pastor Karen

Prayers & Praises

April 12, 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*

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:

- Falls City FCC and Rev. FayAnn Blaylock

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Michelle McKay serving in Haiti

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



Imaginative Visualization

Matthew 28:1-10

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 women at the tomb? A guard? 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.)