



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

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Week of April 19, 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

Dear God, who defies all odds, we pray to you with thanksgiving for the signs of hope we see in our community. When we see neighbor helping neighbor, we know it is your Spirit at work in the world. Help us to maintain the faith, hope, and joy of Easter throughout the whole season. Lord, build in us the strength to trust you in all things, and to rely on you when our lives feel like more than we can handle. We know you see our struggles, and we know you hear our prayers, that we pray 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=aVeeWkQetAo>

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.

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15aH-qmem8c>

From Concordia's Children's Series

What A Savior

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wG_710JTagU

Performed by Laura Story

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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.
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Scripture

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in

the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reflection

“Meditation for 2nd Sunday in Easter”

In these days of physical distancing and sheltering in place, Thomas would have been in the upper room with the other disciples when Jesus appeared the first time. It may be easier than ever to imagine the life of the first Disciples. While their number exceeded the recommended 10, like many of us, they found themselves together in a small room. Like us, they were dealing with fear, but for very different reasons. Even so, their feelings mirrored our own today.

Strange things had happened and they didn't know what was in store for them. Would their lives ever return to normal? What might normal look like after the death of Jesus? They were beginning to hear that Jesus had been raised from the dead. However, for most of them, this appearance of Jesus in their midst was the first time they had seen him themselves. They had the testimony of the women, but now, they experienced the risen Lord personally.

As Jesus appeared to them, he said, “peace be with you.” On one hand, this was, and still is, a common greeting in the Middle East. But, like many greetings, his words are striking when we really think about them. Jesus appeared in their midst, somehow entering a locked room. He must have been keenly aware of their fear, because the first thing he said to them was “peace be with you.” Then, he took things one step further, breathing upon them and giving them

the gift of the Holy Spirit. He gave them his presence in a way that would continue to abide with them. He didn't shame them for their fear, he acknowledged it and brought an antidote: peace.

The Greek word used here for peace, *Eirene*, has many layers of meaning:

- 1) It can mean a state of national tranquility and an exemption from the rage and havoc of war.
- 2) It can mean peace, harmony, or concord between individuals.
- 3) It can mean security, safety, or prosperity because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous.

So, peace for Jesus implies a state of being for the individual and the community as a whole. Peace is more profound when considered in the context of difficult times. Jesus knew that the Disciples had been through difficult times and that the days ahead would be equally trying. He knew that the only way they could survive and thrive in the times ahead was to receive the peace that only he could give them. That doesn't mean things would suddenly get better or easier. However, as Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon them they were able to face and embrace the difficult times ahead.

In these difficult times, the words of Jesus are just as powerful. “Peace be with you.” May the peace of Christ embrace us and empower us in these trying times and always.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

April 19, 2020

In Our Church Family:

- William Deterding
- Betty Ferguson
- 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*

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*
- 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:

- Hastings FCC and Rev. Dustin Bower

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Fritz-Gerald Joseph serving in Morocco

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



Spiritual Practice

Hands Mandala

WELCOME OUR GOD WHO IS EVER WITH US.
OFFER A PRAYER.

CLOSE YOUR EYES, CLEAR YOUR MIND, RELAX YOUR

BODY.

OPEN YOUR EYES.

ALLOW THE MATERIALS AND COLORS TO CHOOSE YOU.

Draw a large circle on paper or trace a large plate.

Place your hand in the circle and trace around it. Stop at the edge of the circle.

Place your hand in another position and trace. Hands may overlap.

Continue until you are satisfied.

Paint or color in sections that call out to be colored.



Contributed by Mary Mohlke, adapted from *Drawing to God* by Jeri Gerding.

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