



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

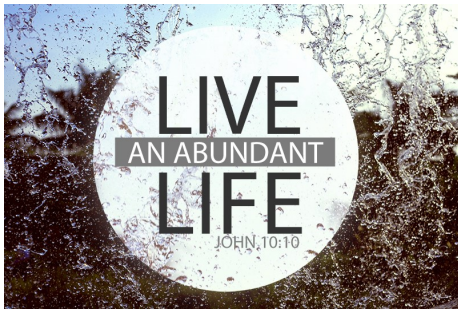
Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, Pastor
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Week of May 3, 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

Community Prayer

Gracious and loving God, your promise of abundant life feels like a cruel joke these days. Everything we know is out of order and we don't know what to do. The anxiety of watching and waiting is taking its toll. Lord, we pray to you for the peace of mind to seek out the good in each day. We pray for the strength to listen for that still, small voice that we know is your Spirit calling out to us in the midst of the craziness surrounding us. God, calm us in the whirlwind that is our current world, grant us the peace of your Son, Jesus, in whose name 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.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sswa_88sKgU

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.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbdYv0cXNcY>

Performed by the BYU Concert Choir

You Alone Can Rescue

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2cWrjq-O0I&t=16s>

Performed by Matt Redman

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

John 10:1-10

¹Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of

strangers.’ ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Reflection

“Meditation for the 4th Week in Easter”

When we think of this passage from John, I suspect most of us imagine this serene and idyllic scene. Perhaps we think of the stained glass window outside the Pastor’s Study or we may have our favorite picture in mind. However, the scene Jesus creates for us was probably the opposite. Sheep are milling about bleating. There is anxiety in the air as rumors of thieves and wolves abound. Fear begins to settle upon them and the sheep become more and more restless. I love sheep, but they are not the smartest animals and they are easily affected by their surroundings. In the midst of all this activity and noise, the Shepherd expects the sheep to hear his voice. This seems like an unreasonable expectation to me.

Today we live in a world much like the one described above. Although we are all physically distancing and “sheltering in place” we may find there is a lot of chaos swirling around us. Perhaps the chaos is mostly in our own heads, especially if we live alone, or there may be a great deal of activity all around us as children struggle with school work and parents strive to work from home. Then there is all the chaos swirling around us on the TV, on social media, and even in the written word. Voices shout out with the hope of being heard and it is difficult to discern what voices we should listen to.

In the midst of all this chaos, then and now, we are still invited to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. So, what does the Good Shepherd have to say to us in the midst of life’s current chaos? The Good Shepherd gives us a lot of direction; this passage is filled with all kinds of action verbs. The Good Shepherd calls us by name, and we are invited to respond. The Good Shepherd leads the sheep and we are invited to follow.

So first and foremost, even amidst these fearful times, how do we make time and space to listen for and to the voice of the Good Shepherd? The ways in which we have done this in

the past are not available to us now. We cannot gather for corporate worship, but we can participate in shared worship through our worship bulletins and our recorded worship services. Each week we invite you to practice a different spiritual discipline or exercise. Hopefully, these have enabled you to make time and space for prayer and for listening to the Good Shepherd’s voice.

Perhaps, in these times of distancing and isolation, you have found or renewed practices that have enabled you to make time and space for God. Once we are able to listen for and to the voice of the Shepherd, then we can let Jesus lead. Are we really willing to follow, wherever that may lead us? Jesus may be inviting us to go in some new directions and create new paths, for ourselves, for our communities and, perhaps, for our congregation.

As this passage comes to a close, Jesus may say one of the most important things, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” While many of the things that have traditionally made for “abundant life” may be gone now, we can still discover what might make for truly abundant life. The Greek word used to describe this “abundance” can also mean over and above, more than is necessary, superior, extraordinary, surpassing, uncommon, more remarkable, or more excellent. Although this may not seem to be the case now, Jesus has come to bring us life that is beyond our imagining. Isn’t that worth listening for his voice above the din?

May this season of our lives give us opportunities to listen for and to the Good Shepherd. May we take the time and make the space to open ourselves to the abundant life he promises for each of us, for our congregation, and even for our world.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

May 3, 2020

In Our Church Family:

- William Deterding
- Betty Ferguson
- 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:

- Havelock Christian Church and Rev. Rob Welch

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Tom Little serving in East Timor

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



Spiritual Practice

Illuminate a Text

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.

Choose a text with which you wish to work.

With a pencil, lightly copy the text on paper with these things in mind:

- ◇ You may want to make the first capital large, or large and within a box;
- ◇ You may want a border on one or more sides;
- ◇ You may want a picture, symbol, drawing, or painting to help illustrate the words.

Finish the lettering in ink and the artwork in whatever form you wish.

You may add gold lines or squiggles with a gel pen.

Contributed by Mary Mohlke

Adapted from *Drawing to God* by Jeri Gerding



Behold, I create a new thing....