



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 Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader
www.fcclincoln.org
info@fcclincoln.org

Week of May 10, 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

Loving Creator God, we pray this week for strength and perseverance. Lord, help us set aside our will for ourselves, our own selfish wants and desires, and concentrate our love and attention on the greater good. Find subtle ways to remind us, O God, that we were not created to serve our own needs, and that to love and follow you is to love and live with our neighbors in peace and respect. Lord, take the weight of anxiety and fear off our shoulders and help to carry our burdens, for we know you are with us always. 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/channel/UCVeJAW8Dmqv8Jmk5rzj43g>

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.

The Church's One Foundation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1YBYrJ8Hzg>

Performed by Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, CA

Who You Say I Am
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IcClBp13n_4

Performed by Hillsong Worship

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 14:1-14

¹ ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ ⁵ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ ⁶ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

⁸ Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ ⁹ Jesus said to him,

‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Reflection

“Meditation for the 5th Week in Easter”

This passage from the Gospel of John is often chosen as one of the scripture lessons for funerals and memorial services. These words from Jesus bring comfort to those who are grieving. Even in the most distressing times of our lives, Jesus says “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.” We find ourselves in deeply troubling and uncertain times. What troubles your heart today? COVID-19 is on all our minds and has altered our lives and our world. How could we not be troubled? And yet, Jesus says “do not let your hearts be troubled.” Jesus invites us to lay our troubles upon Him and embrace our belief in God. God is bigger than any virus. God remains faithful in all times and circumstances.

Our scripture lesson today also offers a challenge. Jesus reminds the early Disciples, and by extension us, that whoever has seen Jesus has also seen God the Father. Just as we are able to see God in Jesus, others are able to see Jesus through us. This seems particularly important in these days of COVID-19. It's so tempting to focus on ourselves and our needs and to seek to fulfill our desires, particularly in these times of self-isolation and physical distancing. There is a sense of urgency to reopen everything and get back to business. I'm as eager as anyone. But, our passage this week invites us to ponder our actions in light of this scripture. As we ponder our next moves, we must ask ourselves, how

will our decisions and actions be a reflection of God?

A colleague recently reminded me of the importance of empathy. We reflect the glory of God as we put ourselves in the place of another. As we face and name our fears and anxieties, we are able to acknowledge them in one another. We need not be overcome by those fears and anxieties because we have the promise of God's presence. As we strive to reflect Jesus in our lives and decisions, we are empowered to do so by the reminder that God has a place for each and every one of us. We reflect God's glory as we make decisions that care for ourselves and one another. This may lead us to continue physical distancing, remaining at home as much as possible, wearing masks when we leave home to run essential errands, and continuing to worship from home. The beauty of all this is that we show God's love for one another as we create safe places for all of us. God empowers us to do all this no matter how challenging it becomes. Hopefully, others will see the presence of our loving God through us and through the choices we make in the next few days and even months.

May we be empowered by God's promises to prepare a place for all of us. Our hearts need not be troubled as we place our belief and trust in God.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

May 10, 2020

In Our Church Family:

- William Deterding
- Betty Ferguson
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- Our sympathy to the family and friends of Ray Calkins at his recent passing

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 Timothy's:

- Bruce Frogge *at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, *Creative Arts Ministry in Lincoln, NE*

In the Nebraska Region:

- Humboldt Christian Church and Rev. Howard Blecha

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Nishan Bakalian serving in Lebanon

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



Spiritual Practice

House Blessing

Create a house blessing. Write a prayer for each room in your home, asking God to sanctify the things that take place there. If every moment, every location can become a time and place for encountering God, how do you pray God will meet you and those around you in the kitchen, dining room, bathroom, or bedroom? In your “house of God,” the church, what prayers might be raised for sanctuary, church office, pastor’s study, or nursery?

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Psalm 15, often read at the consecration of a Jewish home.