



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 May 31, 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

O Holy God, we come to you today in joy, celebrating the birth of your church. It is today that we remember how the first disciples were gifted with the Holy Spirit, and how as members of your church, we, too, have the same gift. We have the opportunity to look for the Spirit at work in our lives. As we slowly start to leave our homes, we pray to you for discernment, that the actions we take represent your love for all people, not our selfish desires. Be with us as we make these decisions over the coming weeks. 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.

<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.

Come Down, O Love Divine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXO4rqBQOAU&t=25s>

From Music for Faith and Worship

Holy Spirit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zEiiZi2DKk>

Performed by Francesca Battistelli

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

Acts 2:1-21

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all
flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall
prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and
women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven
above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great
and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name
of the Lord shall be saved."

Reflection

“Meditation for Pentecost”

When we think of the day of Pentecost we often think of large crowds gathering for the celebration. Last year we gathered with First Presbyterian Church as we both celebrated 150 years of mission and ministry. But, this year Pentecost will be quite different. We won't be gathering for public worship, and those who gather won't be coming together in large crowds.

However, the challenge for us is the question: does the Holy Spirit still move in our lives and our world? One measure of the movement of the Holy Spirit on that first Pentecost was the ability the worshipers had to communicate with one another. Despite differences in language and culture, everyone was able to understand the proclamation of God's word. One of the intriguing hallmarks of life in the age of COVID-19 has been the challenge to communicate and remain connected. Fortunately, we live in an age of technology that makes communicating while physically distant possible.

Here at FCC we have endeavored to use all the technology available to us. Through our weekly YouTube videos and worship bulletin we have continued to share the Good News of God's presence and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives and world. Zoom has also enabled us to stay connected as we gather for weekly Virtual Coffee Fellowship, weekly Youth Group, meetings of the Board and various Teams, and monthly gatherings of the Deborah Group. And of course, there has been use of the old fashioned phone. Communication and fellowship has continued even in the midst of physical distancing.

Another interesting feature of this passage from Acts was the inclusion of all those in the then-known world. This passage isn't

simply a challenge for the brave soul who reads it, the list of the languages heard on that day was intended to share the idea that the Holy Spirit moved across the known world. Today, we are keenly aware of our part in a global community. COVID-19 isn't simply a regional or national disaster, it is global. As such, we are united in a unique way. How might we use this experience to unite us together in the awareness that we are bound together not only by a virus, but also by a sense of God's presence and activity among us? Undoubtedly, there may be those who wonder, “where is God in all this? How could God let this happen?” Perhaps you have asked these questions too. I don't know how such things are allowed to happen, but I do know that God is present with us in the midst of it. All the ways in which we have stayed socially connected are proof of this for me. God has equipped us with the means to stay connected even when we must physically distance.

This year Pentecost presents us with some unique opportunities. Like those first Christians, we are invited to experience God's presence with us through the movement and activity of the Holy Spirit. God communicates the Good News in ways in which we can receive it. The Holy Spirit knows no boundaries of language, culture, or virus. God's Spirit binds us together as one global community. “The Lord is here, God's Spirit is with us”

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

May 31, 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:

- Cotner College Education Lay Ministries

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Rosalind Gnatt serving in Germany

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Spiritual Practice

Imaginative Visualization

Acts 2:1-21

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 eleven? A member of the crowd? 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.)