



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

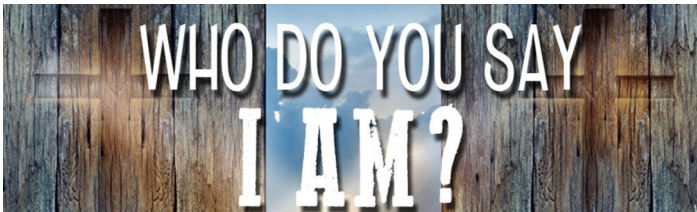
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader

www.fcclincoln.org

info@fcclincoln.org

Week of August 23, 2020



Public Worship WILL be held at 10:30 am Sunday morning.

If you are not quite ready to join us for public worship, 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

O Lord, through whom we live, move, and have our being, help us to live into the best version of ourselves we can be. Loneliness and isolation can lead us into fear of the unknown, into a sense of scarcity, and just plain frustration. We look to you, O God, and your son Jesus, to identify who we are, and more importantly, who you want us to be. Help us to have higher expectations of ourselves, that we can attempt to live into the fullness you wish us to experience. Fill us with your Spirit to accomplish the call you give to each and every one of us. Amen.

New Way to Connect!

Dial-A-Sermon 402-205-5988

Call any time to hear Pastor Karen's sermon for the week!

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=jotNbcFelX4>

Performed by Durham Road Baptist Church

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>

Performed by Chris Tomlin

Even if you are worshipping from home, 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 Readings

Exodus 1:8-2:10

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

¹ Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Reflection

Meditation for 12th Sunday after Pentecost

“Who Do You Say I Am?”

Our Gospel lesson from Matthew describes a pivotal point in the lives of the Disciples. This event is so important that it is related in all three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In her weekly reflection on the lectionary readings, minister and editor of the Presbyterian Outlook Jill Duffield said: “Who we say Jesus is has implications for how we see ourselves and others. Our belief in who Jesus is shapes the way we live.”

Jesus began by asking: “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” To this initial question he got a variety of answers: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Then Jesus took them deeper by asking, “But who do *you* say that I am?”

During these times of COVID-19 and quarantine, we have some time to reflect on that question as well. Duffield reminds us that

“...Jesus says that Peter did not come to this knowledge and confession of belief on his own. God revealed this to Peter, Jesus declares. Peter did not study hard and then get a good grade on this test. Peter was not somehow exceptionally perceptive and therefore saw something in Jesus others overlooked.”

Through the power of God’s Spirit, Peter exclaimed “You are the Messiah (the Christ in Greek), the Son of the Living God.”

“In Matthew’s version of this exchange, not only does Peter name correctly who Jesus is (the Christ, the Son of the living God), Jesus then tells Peter who he truly is (you are Peter, the rock upon which I will build my church).”

When Peter named who Jesus was, Jesus declared who Peter was. There was a mutual revealing of true identity that happened for Peter and happens for us today when we confess Jesus is

Lord. Not only did Peter realize, through the power of God’s Spirit, who Jesus really was, Peter came to know who he was in the eyes of Jesus. Peter learned more about his identity, his future, and his call.

During my recent pastors’ retreat, the retreat leaders invited the group to reflect on this same passage. In confessing Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, we were invited to ponder what such a confession says about ourselves. That question shaped our entire retreat and we were invited to create a small “travelling book” (a miniature scrapbook) in which we placed items that helped us answer that question. Each of us created a different booklet that lifted up various components of our answer. Our sense of identity, our hopes for the future and our sense of call could be seen in a myriad of different ways. I have a sense that this a booklet to which I will return often.

I invite each of us to ponder this passage. In proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the Living God, what are we saying about ourselves? Who is Jesus calling each of us to be? What is our identity, our future, our call? We are invited to do this as individuals *and* as a community. Who are we as members and friends of First Christian Church? As we move into an uncertain future, who is God call us to be? To become? As a congregations in the shadow of the Capitol, what is our identity? What is our future? What is our call? We may be tempted to shrug off the question by saying, “we’ve already answered those questions.”

The power of this passage today is the reminder that Jesus asks these questions throughout our lives and invites us to do the same. Duffield concluded her reflections by saying: “As we attempt to follow Jesus, always learning who he is, we pray that when Jesus asks us, “Who do you say that I am?” God will reveal to us the answer not only with our words, but through our very lives.”

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

August 23, 2020

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Betty Ferguson
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- William Deterding, *prayers for COVID-19 being confirmed in his facility*
- Marj Snodgrass
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Gwen Belden
- Roxie Pickel

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Rick Pickel, *going back in for treatments, son of Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Becky, *prayers for healing from pneumonia and COVID-19, cousin of Dick Pickel*
- Fred Ogren, *prayers for healing during hospitalization, son of La-Vonne Ogren*
- Tricia Gangwish, *prayers for fighting breast cancer, aunt of Lindsay Swanson*
- Sondra Peterson & Sister Rhonda, *prayers for the passing of their mother*

Friends:

- Pam Larsen, *continuing to fight cancer, friend of Marcia Foster*
- Peggy Westburg, *praise for improvement, though there is no cure for her cancer, friend of Lindsay Swanson*
- Karen, *during cancer treatments, co-worker of Rhonda Ball*
- Dennis, *battling cancer, friend of the Effle Family*
- Will Barrett, *for healing with gut issues, high-school aged neighbor of the Blossers*
- Prayers for justice and equality for our brothers & sisters of color throughout the nation. We are ALL created in God's Image! *from Tom Mason*
- Peggy, *prayers for fighting breast cancer, co-worker of Sara Lugn*

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:

- Plattsmouth FCC and Rev. Michael Lincoln

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Monica Liddle serving in East Timor

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



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/UCVejAW8D_mqv8Jmk5rzj43g

Spiritual Practice

A Time to Share and Reflect

Whether you are eating alone or with someone else, you have the opportunity to examine the day just passed or that which is to come. At breakfast, for example, you might lift up one way in which you hope to be more faithful. Other meals provide time to reflect on ways in which you have been aware of God's presence.

A simple but meaningful method is to offer up one good thing and one bad thing that occurred during the course of the day. This basic form of examen is particularly helpful in family situations or with smaller children. Some families have taken to putting a penny into a jar for each of the several good things noted, for example, 3 cents if three good things are shared at the table. This money is collected for donation to church or secular efforts to end hunger.



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