



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 August 30, 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

Dear God of the thin places, we pray today for the courage to look you in the face and know that you are God. We pray to accept the unique calling you have given each of us, and not to fear that we aren't good enough to get the job done. Lord, help us feel your presence in our day-to-day lives. Knowing you are near and feeling it are two different things. Our old holy spaces aren't always open to us right now, so let your Spirit encourage us to find new and unexpected ones. We pray this in the name of your son, Jesus. 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.

Go Down, Moses

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JNCS27rtQ8>

Performed by Louis Armstrong

Glory to God Forever

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8HJjlyCSY>

Performed by Steve Fee

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 3:1-15

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵ Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶ He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' ¹¹ But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' ¹² He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

¹³ But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' ¹⁴ God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I AM has sent me to you."' ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you": This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Reflection

Meditation for 13th Sunday after Pentecost

“Standing on Holy Ground”

What makes a place holy? When we think of holy places we often think of churches or other houses of worship. Perhaps we think of awe inspiring places, like the Western Wall in Jerusalem or some wonder of nature like the Grand Canyon. Perhaps you are like me and you think of the ocean, or you may espouse the grandeur of mountains instead. When we think of a holy place, there is often a sense or awareness of God’s presence. In the case of a place of worship, there is the sense that God has been worshipped in that space for years, generations, or even centuries. When we think of a natural place of wonder, we may be in awe of the Creator God who made such glorious places.

In these days of COVID-19, when our mobility is limited and many of us are staying at home or limiting our contacts, access to these holy places is limited, too. Perhaps we feel free to visit some of the natural wonders of the world, but our presence in houses of worship may seem to be simply a dream. We may feel as though our access to holy places is limited and it leaves our hearts aching. I know for many of us, the sanctuary and chapel here at FCC are considered holy places. When deciding where to create our weekly worship videos, we very intentionally chose the chapel, partly because it had the correct elements for such an endeavor and partly because we knew this was a sacred and holy space for many people.

These challenging times invite us to hear anew this passage from Exodus and consider what makes a place holy. Our passage from Exodus tells us that Moses “...led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.” (verse 1) Moses went beyond the place of wilderness that has often been a place in which God has been encountered in both the Hebrew and Greek scriptures. He went beyond the usual place of encounter and went to a place where others had worshipped God. Moses stood on the side of a mountain with his sheep and en-

countered God. As he came upon the burning bush he knew that he had come upon a holy place. There are rituals and traditions in various religions that make a place holy. However, we often know when we have entered a holy place; there is an awareness that comes over us just as it did for Moses. Though we rarely have the advantage of seeing a burning bush, we know in our deepest being that we have entered a holy space. Part of what makes a place holy is a sense of connection with God, others, and often ourselves. Our response when in such a place can be much like Moses; we are in awe and we want to do something that symbolizes our awareness of being in God’s presence. We may fall silent or speak in hushed tones. In many sacred spaces we, like Moses, are invited to remove our shoes as an expression of reverence, humility, trust, and vulnerability before others and God.

When we find ourselves in a sacred space, who is the God we encounter? For Moses, he encountered a God of compassion who heard and saw the suffering of the Israelites. Moses encountered a God of action who called Moses into action, and by extension us. Action to alleviate the suffering of others. Action that would lead, and still leads, to justice. Moses encountered a God eager to reveal Godself by sharing a name. Moses encountered a God willing to be intimately connected with him and all God’s people.

We may not be able to stand on holy ground in the ways we are used to, but we are still called to holy places filled with God’s presence. Whether that holy ground is found in extraordinary places, or ordinary spaces like our own home, may we have the wisdom to recognize those times and places in which God comes to us. The God of love, compassion, mercy, justice, and action is with us in all the holy places and spaces of our lives.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

August 30, 2020

Spiritual Practice

Pray and Work

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
- Polly Putney

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 LaVonne 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*
- Peggy, *prayers for fighting breast cancer, co-worker of Sara Lugn*
- Brittney Clark, *prayers for financial struggles due to COVID-19*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Scottsbluff FCC and Rev. Winona Hodder

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Fiona Kendall serving in Italy

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



Cultivate an attitude of mindfulness toward daily chores so that you can see God in them. Take a moment to pray over the tools of your day, to give thanks for them, or to ask for their proper use, whether a mop, paintbrush, or high technology. The computer may or may not crash, but you might develop the gift of patience needed to handle the situation.

Use technology to help you in your devotional life. Set up your screensaver with a meaningful Bible verse or quotation from a spiritual writing. Make your computer wallpaper a scene from nature that reminds you of God's creative power. Each time you have to enter a password, make it a word of religious importance to you - the gifts of the Spirit, one by one, will keep you going for a long time!

Consider this variation on the Celtic prayer for starting a fire as you turn on your computer:

For the God of Life: turn on your computer tower;

For the God of Peace: turn on your monitor;

For the God of Grace: turn on your printer.

Brother Lawrence, a 17th century Christian Carmelite found in his thirty years of serving as a cook that the kitchen was a fruitful place for practicing the presence of God:

“The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer, and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are calling for different things, I possess God as in great tranquility as if I were upon my knees.”

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

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