



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 December 20, 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 of Peace, we come to you in prayer with our whole selves rejoicing. We have waited through Advent for your coming, and we know it is happening soon. Like Mary, we pray that you find a way to use us, even though we are not rich and famous, to spread your hope, love, joy, and peace throughout our communities and our world. Encourage us through your Spirit to live in the way of Jesus, before and after his death. God, may Christmas not be just a holiday for us, but a rebirth, a new beginning, a fresh start to live into our fullness in Christ. We pray through 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.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

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

Performed by Kings College, Cambridge

Newborn King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZbGJtVfJEc>

Performed by Jeff Pardo

Even if you are worshiping 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 Reading

Luke 1:46-55

The Magnificat

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

Reflection

Meditation for Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Our Souls Magnify the Lord”

I am the queen of magnification. I have magnifiers of every size and shape; I have small and big ones, I even have a closed circuit TV that really magnifies things. When I served the church in Prague I used to joke that when I printed things for worship in very large print, I usually said that I had to “blow-up” my worship materials so I could see them. I assured Ricky, my colleague, that no explosives were involved. As the queen of magnification, I have to confess that the opening line of the Magnificat, our scripture for today, caught my attention. What did it mean when Mary exclaimed **“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”**?

This prayer of Mary’s is often called the Magnificat because of the first word translated into Latin. “Magnificat anima mea Dominum.” But what did Mary mean when she said her soul magnified the Lord? In the Greek, the original language of this passage, Mary exclaimed “megalunei” which is translated as “magnify” It can also mean to make great, metaphorically it can mean to make conspicuous, to deem or declare great, to esteem highly, to extol, laud, celebrate, or to receive or give glory and praise. She said her “psyche” magnified the Lord. We get the word psyche from the original Greek. It can mean “soul” but it means the very breath of life, the vital force which animates the body and shows itself in the breath of life. It can also mean the seat of feelings, desires, affections, and aversions. The “psyche” was distinct from the body and lasted beyond death. Basically, Mary praised God with her entire being.

Mary went on, as if what she had already said was not expressive enough, to say that her “pneuma” her spirit “rejoices” in God. Here “rejoice” can also mean to exult, rejoice exceedingly, and be exceedingly glad. The Greek used

for the word we usually translate as spirit is like the word for soul: quite complex. Spirit can also mean the vital principal by which the body is animated, the rational spirit, the power by which the human being feels, thinks, decides, and acts. Once again, even though the word is different, the author intended to convey the idea that Mary rejoiced with her entire being.

So, what gave Mary such joy? She realized that God chose to work through her, a lowly maiden. She was not famous or wealthy. For many, the thought that God would work through a lowly woman was inconceivable. But Mary rejoiced because God was working through her and her life. She knew the full reality of this would not be realized until well in the future. She exulted God with her entire being. She enlarged what was previously unseen. She made God’s presence conspicuous in a world that often overlooked God’s presence and actions.

How do we magnify the Lord today? We, like Mary, may also feel insignificant and unimportant. How do we bear the Christ child to others? It is generally the small acts of love that say the most; a phone call, a note, a Zoom visit. Listening to someone hurting or grieving. In these long days and months with COVID, it is in all these “lowly” acts of love that we witness the arrival of the Savior. We need Mary’s words now more than ever; “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” May we find numerous reasons to rejoice and may our acts and our lives magnify the Lord!

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

December 20, 2020

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- William Deterding, for COVID-19 in his facility
- Our sympathy to the family of Betty Ferguson, upon her recent passing
- Our sympathy to the family of Jack Fields, upon his recent passing
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Vic Burgess
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Mildred Brockmeyer

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Fred Ogren, prayers for healing during hospitalization, son of LaVonne Ogren
- Tricia Gangwish, prayers for fighting breast cancer, aunt of Lindsay Swanson
- Will Oldenburg, prayers for deployment to Middle East, cousin of D'Arcy Blosser
- Wayne Rediger, prayers for triple bypass surgery, brother-in-law of Cec Burkhardt
- Aunt, Uncle, and several cousins with COVID-19 diagnoses, family of Sondra Peterson
- John Swanson's father, in nursing home with COVID-19

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 Lugin
- Van Hall, friend of William Deterding
- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, prayers for diagnosis of glioblastoma, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser
- Our sympathy to Sharon Schneiders and daughter Suzanne, upon the passing of Jeff Schneiders, friends of the Blossers
- Daryl Cox, in hospice for cancer, friend of the Pickels
- Dan Principato, complications with COVID-19, friend of the Vocaseks

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

All Children and Youth in our Congregations

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Danielle Murry-Knowles serving in Lesotho



Song of the Week

Newborn King

By Jeff Pardo

We've been waiting, our hearts hoping
For a Savior, for our Lord
Now this day, in flesh appearing
Love is here, we wait no more.

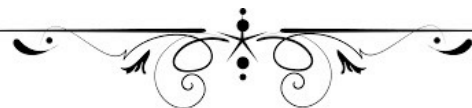
Light of the world, come to save, come to save us
Heaven rejoices, angels sing
Glory to God in the high, in the highest
We bow before our newborn King

Peace on earth and death defeated
Mercy triumphs, grace abounds
Through this child we gain forgiveness
Our salvation here and now.

Light of the world, come to save, come to save us
Heaven rejoices, angels sing
Glory to God in the high, in the highest
We bow before our newborn King

Hallelujah, Christ our Savior
Hallelujah we will sing
Hallelujah, Christ our Savior
Son of God, our newborn King

Light of the world, come to save, come to save us
Heaven rejoices, angels sing
Glory to God in the high, in the highest
We bow before our newborn King



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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVejAW8Dmqv8Jmk5rzj43g)