



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

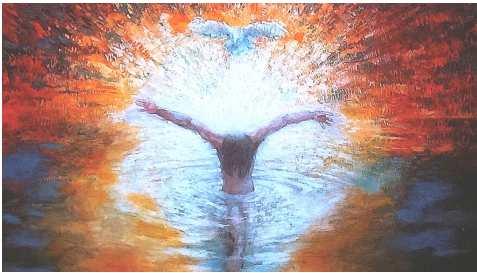
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugin, Stephen Ministry Leader

www.fcclincoln.org

info@fcclincoln.org

Week of January 10, 2021



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 Father God, we praise you today for adopting us into your family as children. When each of us was baptized, you were announcing that we, too, are your beloved children, and somehow, against all odds, you are pleased with us. God, let this knowledge sustain us through the hard times, when it feels hard to give, when it feels impossible to love, when we struggle to see the face of God in our neighbors. We trust that through the example of your Son Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit, we will make our futures brighter than our pasts, this day, this week, this year. 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.

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1R1Z8JI5Wio>

Performed by Summit Ave Church

Down to the River to Pray

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXFL6PBdo5Y>

Performed by Alison Krauss

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

Mark 1:4-11

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Psalms 29

A Psalm of David.

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
² Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.

³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames
of fire.

⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of
Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to
whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.

¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with
peace!

Reflection

Meditation for Baptism of the Lord Sunday

“Beloved Children of God”

A lot has happened in the year since we last marked Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Our world and our lives have radically changed. Early in the pandemic, March and April of last year, I took an online course offered by Phillips Seminary called “Disciples History and Polity.” This was in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Ministerial Standing in the Nebraska Region. In addition to covering the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we spent a little time learning about the governance and structure of the church as well. As part of our course requirements we had to prepare a Personal Reflection Paper over Disciples Beliefs and Practices. I chose to write about Baptism. I like to joke that I was born and baptized a Lutheran, predestined to be a Presbyterian, and now I get to be a Christian. With this background, and as a long-time Presbyterian, I have a very ecumenical background and I wanted to spend some time reflecting on Baptism. At the time I prepared this paper I was also thinking about our Baptismal preparations for some of the youth in our congregation. It struck me how this one event in the life of Jesus has shaped us as Christians and has, at the same time, caused great conflict and controversy in the Church Universal.

The Baptism of Jesus is so important that it appears in all three of the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Today we are invited to ponder this story as it comes to us from the short and simple account offered in Mark. The author of this Gospel wasted no time on frivolous details, the story was told simply and directly. With this in mind, Christians throughout the ages have struggled with our faithful response. For a variety of reasons Christians came to baptize infants and many of the Reformers challenged this practice while others adopted it. I empathize with the later Reformer Alexander Campbell as he struggled with this issue. Having grown up as a Presbyterian, he had been bap-

tized as an infant. As he grew and began his own family he struggled with this account from Mark, and others, that presented the Baptism of Jesus. After wrestling with Scripture, he decided that he had not been biblically baptized so he asked a friend and colleague, a Baptist pastor, to baptize him in a nearby lake. Others in his family were so moved by this that they were also baptized by immersion that same day. Campbell believed in the centrality and importance of baptism by immersion to such an extent that he often wrote about it in the following years. Campbell was so moved by the experience of baptism by immersion that he came to believe it was transformative and had to be the informed decision of the one being baptized. In his opinion no one could make such a life-changing decision for another.

It is clear in our passage today that the Baptism of Jesus was transformative and powerful. Although the event itself was simple, hearing God’s voice and being called God’s beloved was such a powerful experience that it sustained Jesus throughout his earthly life and ministry. This act also became the template for believers. We may not have literally heard God’s voice call us the beloved at our baptism, but the very act of baptism bears witness to that reality. As we remember and celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, we are invited to remember that in our baptism God calls each one of us “the beloved.” That awareness is life changing, for us and for all those baptized by water and the Holy Spirit. May this realization sustain us throughout our earthly lives and ministries as it sustained Jesus. Each and every one of us is a beloved child of God in whom God is well pleased.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

January 10, 2021

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger & Jessica Vocasek
- William Deterding
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Vic Burgess
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Mildred Brockemeyer

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Rick Pickel, for returning to chemotherapy, son of Dick & Roxie Pickel
- 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 as he anticipates deployment to the Middle East, cousin of D'Arcy Blosser
- 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
- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, diagnosed with glioblastoma, prayers for healing, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser
- Daryl Cox, in hospice for cancer, friend of the Pickels
- Dan Principato, complications with COVID-19, friend of the Vocaseks
- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart
- Tomi, healing prayers for cancer diagnosis, friend of Sara Lugin

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

Alliance First Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Ignacio Salinas serving in Nicaragua

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

Down to the River to Pray

Words and Music by Eric Bright

© 2007 Anthony K. Music CCLI #1923135

As I went down in the river to pray,
studying about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord, show me the way.

O sisters, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O sisters, let's go down,
down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray,
studying about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the robe and
crown?

Good Lord, show me the way.

O brothers, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
Come on brothers, let's go down,
down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray,
studying about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord, show me the way.



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)