



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 February 14, 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

Dear God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows, we give praise to you for the powerful love you show your people. In a time when all we want is to go back to the way things used to be, you stand among us showing us a new way of living. Give us the courage to face the unknown, the new normal, and the changes that are happening all around us. We may not like what we get, but with the fortitude you give us, we can learn to adapt in ways that stretch our comfort zones. Be with us as we try. 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>

Call to Worship

Feel free to follow along with our Call to Worship from today's live-streamed worship service.

One: You are with us, God of sunrises:

Many: You awaken us with each bright new day, overflowing with promise.

One: You are with us, Inviting God:

Many: Calling us to respond to all those chances to share the spirit of grace and hope.

One: You are with us, Glory of God:

Many: Gathering us into the presence of your peace, listening to the deep sighs of our hearts.

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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.
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Scripture Reading

Psalm 50:1-6

A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ The mighty one, God
the LORD,

speaks and summons the
earth

from the rising of the sun to
its setting.

² Out of Zion, the perfection of
beauty,

God shines forth.

³ Our God comes and does not
keep silence,

before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all
around him.

⁴ He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may
judge his people:

⁵ ‘Gather to me my faithful
ones,

who made a covenant with
me by sacrifice!’

⁶ The heavens declare his right-
eousness,

for God himself is judge.

Selah

Mark 9:2-9

² Six days later, Jesus took with
him Peter and James and John, and
led them up a high mountain apart,
by themselves. And he was trans-
figured before them, ³ and his
clothes became dazzling white,
such as no one on earth could
bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared
to them Elijah with Moses, who
were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Pe-
ter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good
for us to be here; let us make three
dwellings, one for you, one for Mo-
ses, and one for Elijah.’ ⁶ He did not
know what to say, for they were
terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshad-
owed them, and from the cloud
there came a voice, ‘This is my Son,
the Beloved; listen to him!’ ⁸ Sud-
denly when they looked around,
they saw no one with them any
more, but only Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the
mountain, he ordered them to tell
no one about what they had seen,
until after the Son of Man had ris-
en from the dead.

Reflection

Meditation for Transfiguration Sunday

“The Power of Love”

As we move from the season of Epiphany to Lent, we cross the threshold of the Transfiguration of Jesus. This story gives us a glimpse of what awaits us once we make it through our annual pilgrimage in the wilderness of Lent. We have a taste of Jesus' glory which will be fully experienced on Easter Sunday. In this well known passage from scripture, we have a striking story. As is the custom of Mark, the story is told concisely. Jesus took three of his beloved Disciples, Peter, John and James, to the mountain top. It would have been enough of a miracle to witness the change in Jesus, but there was more. They also saw Moses and Elijah, two giants and pillars of their faith.

Why them? Of all those who could have made an appearance, why was it these two? Commentators tell us that Moses symbolizes the Law and Elijah the prophets. The Law represented more than simple mandates about morality and behavior. The Mosaic Law was the very foundation of their faith. As one of my pastoral colleagues put it, the Legalists who upheld and followed the Law did so because they wanted things to remain the same. But, Moses was not the only figure to join Jesus on that mountain, the prophet Elijah shows up too. Elijah was the pre-eminent prophet. He represented God's call to push the boundaries of life and the Law. The prophets constantly pushed the people of God beyond their comfort zones. While they stood firmly on the Law, they urged people to hear the Word of God in new and challenging ways. So, here was Jesus, right in the middle. He stood between the foundation and stability of the Mosaic Law and the invitation to push the boundaries of God's call on human life.

Just as Jesus stood between these two figures, we are invited to do the same. How do we honor the foundations of our life and faith?

How do we recognize and honor “what has always been? At the same time, how do we allow ourselves to push the boundaries? In many ways we stand between these two dynamics as well. We do this regularly as a congregation. Recently, we marked our 150th anniversary. We celebrated the foundations of our faith and of this congregation. But we know that we cannot simply live in the past. We are challenged by the prophetic word of God that calls us to push our boundaries and move out of our comfort zones.

In many ways, our current circumstances have placed us in this awkward position. As we quickly approach one year in a world dealing with COVID-19, we stand in this liminal space. We are keenly aware that we yearn for what has been, we want to stand firmly on the foundations of our life and faith. And yet, at the same time, we have been pushed to the edges of our comfort zones. Many of us may feel as though we have been pushed beyond our breaking point.

So, what gave Jesus the courage to stand in this space? I suspect it was the voice of God, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him.” Did you notice? Once the voice spoke Moses and Elijah disappeared. Jesus stood alone. He now embodied both the Law and the Prophets. On this Valentine's Day, we are reminded of the power of love. The power of God's love for the beloved. God's love for Jesus and for each of us. That kind of powerful love enables us to also stand amidst the Law and the prophets, in that space between what has been and what may be. Not only did that kind of love transfigure Jesus, it changes us too.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

February 14, 2021

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Jill Carpenter, *diagnosed with COVID-19*
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Vic Burgess
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Mildred Brockemeyer
- Rae Hope Putney

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*
- Phyllis Jones, *hospitalized with COVID, cousin of Dick Pickel*

Friends:

- Our sympathy to the friends and family of Pam Larsen, *upon her recent passing, friend of Marcia Foster*
- Karen, *during cancer treatments, co-worker of Rhonda Ball*
- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, *diagnosed with glioblastoma, prayers for healing, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt*
- Tomi, *healing prayers for cancer diagnosis, friend of Sara Lugin*
- Mother of Dave Schwaninger, *upon recent stroke, friend of Marcia Foster*
- Derek Hilgert, *prayers for multiple health issues, friend of the Effle family*
- Carson Mousel, *13-year-old grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, suffering from anorexia nervosa, from Mildred Brockemeyer*
- Judy Nord, *with bile duct cancer, friend of Dick & Roxie Pickel*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

Bellevue Christian Church and Rev. Michael Lincoln

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

RJ Howard serving in Fiji

Find more information and stories about

our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Text & Music: Graham Kendrick, 1987

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, Shine;
fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow;
flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word,
Lord let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter
your brightness.
Search me; try me;
consume all my darkness.
Shine on me; shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, Shine;
fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow;
flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word,
Lord let there be light.*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness;
every changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, Shine;
fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow;
flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word,
Lord let there be light.*