



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 21, 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.

Prayer of Confession

We come to you, O God, an unfaithful people. We have sinned against you and done much that is evil in your sight. The shadows of sin dominate us, and our secret faults separate us from the light and knowledge of your presence. Have mercy on us, blot out our transgressions, forgive our iniquity, and remember our sins no more. Purge us and we will be clean, wash us and we will be purer than a new fallen snow. Grant us, O God, a new and right Spirit. 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: We come, so God might open our eyes,

Many: That we may discover the wonders surrounding us; that we may embrace the joy deep within us.

One: We gather, so Christ might widen our hearts,

Many: That we may hear the sounds of brokenness around us; that we may sing the melodies of hope.

One: We are here, so the Spirit might teach us the ways of humility,

Many: That we may walk that street named Enduring Love; that we may wait at the corner called Faithfulness.

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

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ ¹² God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ ¹⁷ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

Mark 1:9-15

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.’

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

Reflection

Meditation for 1st Sunday of Lent

“Covenantal Blessings”

In his article for *Lectionary Homiletics* Philip J. Bauman, pastor of the United Church of Christ in Medfield, MA, made an intriguing statement about our text from Genesis.

“Imagine how it must have been for Noah after the flood. Talk about an uncertain and unknown future!” God had just destroyed all of creation and Noah, his family, and all the creatures on the ark were all alone. As the waters began to recede they must have wondered, what would happen next? They must have had so many questions, concerns, and fears. As we begin Lent in the midst of a global pandemic, I suspect we may have a bit more empathy for Noah and his family.

While the earth has not been destroyed by water, many of us probably feel that the world as we have known it has been forever changed and us with it. We may feel a bit adrift. We, like Noah and his family, may find ourselves wondering what happens next? We have probably shared our questions, concerns, and fears with others and with God.

But, our story does not end with Noah, his family, and all the creatures aimlessly adrift. God had a bit more to say. God made a promise to them, a covenant. God promised never again to destroy the earth by flood waters. Bauman went on to point out; “The covenant does not depend on Noah’s behavior. It depends on God’s character and faithfulness.” God’s covenant does not mean they will not experience suffering and pain, but God’s faithfulness means that God will accompany them and wills good for them. As Noah’s descendants, this covenant is our covenant too. Bauman went on to say; “When navigating through the uncertainties of life, a sense of hope and trust that we are not left utterly alone is essential.”

At this point you may be thinking, all this stuff about Noah is nice but what does it have to do with the first week of Lent? Well, many of our lessons from the Hebrew scriptures during Lent will explore the various covenants God made with humanity. We have begun this journey in part because it sets the stage for the covenant God makes with us through Jesus the Christ. The language is not formal “covenantal” language, but God’s presence, faithfulness, and blessing were given at Jesus’ baptism.

In another article for *Lectionary Homiletics*, Wally Fletcher from the Dialogue Center in Plymouth Meeting, PA, lifted up three components present in the idea of blessing that I think apply to covenants as well. First, blessing is about being, not having or doing. Second, blessing is essentially relational. Third, true blessing does not grant immunity from suffering or temptation. However, it can give us the strength and courage to endure.

As we begin this Lent we are reminded that God made a covenant with humanity and all creation. This covenant is the foundation for the covenant that God makes in Christ to bring salvation to all humanity and creation. We witness this covenant in God’s words of blessing spoken at Jesus’ baptism. Just as the covenant with Noah is still meant for us, the blessings given to Jesus are ours as well. May we be encouraged and sustained by the covenants made by God with us and may we be a blessing as God has so richly blessed us.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

February 21, 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*
- Sympathy to the family of Anita Bogott of St. Paul, MN, *upon the passing of her husband, from Georgann Jordan*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

Bethany Christian Church and Rev. Daryl Lauber

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Abigail Fate serving in Mexico

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



Song of the Week

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Text & Music: John Carter, 1997

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence;
Cast me not away from your presence;
Cast me not away from your presence
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore me to the joy of your salvation;
Restore me to the joy of your salvation;
Restore me to the joy of your salvation,
And uphold me with your free Spirit.

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.

Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGPmMcDeRpM)

[v=BGPmMcDeRpM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGPmMcDeRpM)

Performed by PCM Church

Blessed Be Your Name

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=du0il6d-DAk)

[v=du0il6d-DAk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=du0il6d-DAk)

Performed by Tree63