



# First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> 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 28 2021**



## Call to Worship

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

**One:** Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent,

**Many:** Toward the One who calls us each by a new name.

**One:** Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,

**Many:** Pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.

**One:** Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,

**Many:** Whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.

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

Loving God, we confess that we have set our minds on human things and not on things divine. Jesus taught that we are to care for others, to deny ourselves, and take up the cross daily for the sake of the gospel; yet still we spend our days in personal self-absorption, preoccupied with our own concerns. May we take up the cross today and every day as we reach out with food for the hungry, forgiveness for those who need pardon, and unconditional acceptance for any who need to feel your love. In the quiet, hear our confessions, we pray. Amen.

Check out our weekly video at [www.fcclincoln.org](http://www.fcclincoln.org), First Christian's Facebook page, or search for First Christian Church, Lincoln, Nebraska on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVejAW8Dmqv8Jmk5rzj43g>

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 17:1-7, 15-16*

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

<sup>15</sup> God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

## *Mark 8:31-38*

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

<sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 2nd Sunday of Lent*

### “New People with New Paths to Follow”

In his book *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*, author and pastor Frederick Buechner commented; “If my name were different, I would be different. When I tell somebody my name, I have given him a hold over me that he didn’t have before.” Our passage today from Genesis demonstrates the above sentiment made by Buechner. God’s new covenant with Abram and Sarai was symbolized by a name change. Everyone in this story, including God, took on a new name which symbolized a new identity. God came to Abram and Sarai and clearly told them who they were becoming in God’s sight. With a name change God made it clear that Abraham and Sarah would be the father and mother of many generations and that they now had a special relationship with God. In fact, as a part of this new identity and relationship, God also made a name change. God was now to be called El Shaddai. This is generally translated as “God Almighty” but it literally translates into “God of the mountain.” Abraham, Sarah, and God entered into a new relationship that would change all of them from that point forward.

In the verses just before our Gospel lesson for today, Jesus asked the Disciples “Who do people say that I am?” They had several responses; John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asked them “But who do you say that I am?” In his famous, and probably infamous, reply Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” In our passage for today Jesus really continued with this line of inquiry, he described for the Disciples and others listening who he was. In our Gospel lesson we have Jesus’ identity statement. In Mark, Jesus used a common phrase to describe himself, Son of Man. He told them “the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.”

His answer was so shocking and unpopular that Peter immediately tried to silence him. Jesus rebuked him and said “... you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” Jesus did not shrink from who he was and what he was called to do, even though those around him could

not perceive his God-given identity. Jesus’ identity was not marked by a name change, but by the addition to his name, in Hebrew Messiah and in the Greek Christ.

Jesus did not stop there with the description of his identity, he went on to describe the new identity for those who follow him. Jesus told them “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.”

As we ponder our new identity it is so easy to get hung up on the idea of “denying ourselves” and miss the message for us today. J. Harold McKeithen from Hidenwood Presbyterian Church in Newport News, VA in his article for *Lectionary Homiletics* said that the true meaning of self-denial is not self-hatred or self-rejection. He pointed out that “self-denial” is really “self-relinquishment.” “It is the relinquishing of oneself to Christ in the interest of receiving a greater and fuller self.” When Jesus talked about “self-denial” he urged those listening, even and especially us today, to move away from “self-centeredness.” In our devotion today from *Go to Jerusalem* the author Mary Alice Muligan wrote that our passage today invites us to “follow” Jesus wherever that might lead. The challenge for most of us is that we are accustomed to leading and not following.

Embracing our new identity will be challenging. It was challenging for Abraham and Sarah, for Jesus and for the Disciples. In these unprecedented times with COVID may we take the opportunity to ponder who we are and who we are becoming. As Muligan prayed in our devotion “It sounds awful, Human One, to go through what you predicted, so please strengthen me to be able to follow.”

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## February 28, 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 Lugn*
- 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:

Brownville Christian Church and Rev. Dr. Robert Chitwood

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Leda Zakarison serving in Lebanon

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

[www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



# Song of the Week

## Great is Thy Faithfulness

Text by Thomas O. Chisolm

Music by William Marion Runyan

Great is thy faithfulness,  
O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not;  
thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been though forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter,  
and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature  
in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence  
to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today  
and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*