



# 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

**Kelly Tyrrell**, Church Administrator

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**Week of March 7, 2021**



## Call to Worship

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

One: When God speaks, all creation answers:

**Many:** The pale winter moon cries, "Glory!"; the sun hums a song as it warms the earth.

One: When God speaks, lives are changed:

**Many:** Those held hostage by oppression are set free; the voiceless shout the story of salvation.

One: When God speaks, everything is turned inside out:

**Many:** The wise learn the language of grace from little children; the strong take lessons from the powerless.

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.

## Prayer of Confession

Merciful and Loving God, we often come to you with our false selves, afraid to share our true selves with one another or with You. Jesus came before you truthfully, showing you and the world the full range of his humanness. As Jesus looked about the world, he often responded to the injustice, indifference, and hard-heartedness he experienced with tears and anger. Give us the courage to live as truthfully before you and one another as Jesus did. Help us to respond to the pain in our midst with tears, and the injustice in our world with anger. Use our feelings to stir us to action on your behalf. Help us bring consolation to those in pain, and justice to those in distress. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who was fully human and fully divine. 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

## *Exodus 20:1-17*

<sup>1</sup>Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

<sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

<sup>9</sup>For six days you shall labor and do all your work.

<sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## *John 2:13-22*

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.

<sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!'

<sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for 3rd Sunday of Lent*

### “Anger, a Gift from God”

Perhaps one of the most challenging components of life during a pandemic is dealing with the anger. COVID-19 has assaulted every part of our lives. We have lost so much during this past year! We have lost precious time with loved ones. We have had to restrict our movements and many of us have had to deal with isolation and disconnection. The things that made up our daily lives have all been affected, from grocery shopping to church attendance. We yearn to be with loved ones and our church family. Some of us have also had to deal with loss and grief, some of which was connected to the pandemic and some was due to the natural process of human life.

Anger is a normal and understandable response. However, many of us, as people of faith, struggle with this basic human emotion. In the midst of our discomfort we are slapped in the face by our Gospel lesson today. Dr. Dan Clanton from Doane University has used the image of an “Indiana Jones Jesus” when referring to today’s lesson. Jesus comes with a whip in hand and is only missing the brown fedora. We’re tempted to write off this Jesus as an aberration, an anomaly. Whether we like it or not, we must confront our discomfort with this portrayal of Jesus.

Instead of avoiding our discomfort with anger, we may find some important guidance from our passage today. Jesus can teach us a lot about anger. Interestingly enough, this story about Jesus can be found in all 4 Gospels. In this story we are invited to consider that legitimate anger is different than rage and violence. Genuine anger can motivate us towards change and productive action. This is not easy. I think this is evidenced in the reality that there are a lot of books and periodicals that deal with this subject, particularly for people of faith. Anyone looking through my own library would notice that I have several of these items. Of course, I have done a lot of reading in this area as a part of my ministry of pastoral care. But, I have to be honest and admit that this has been a personal area of struggle and growth for me as well. I have one book entitled *The Gift of Anger: A Call to Faithful Action* by Carroll Saussy. I also have several issues of a periodical on the spiritual life entitled *Weavings* which has one entire edition devoted to the topic of anger. One author, Adele Gonzalez,

wrote an article entitled “Finding God in Your Anger.” In fact, she teaches a course on it. She explored the components that motivate anger; unfair treatment and unmet expectations. So, what do we do with these experiences? How do we deal with our anger in positive ways? She invites us to take all of this to God in prayer.

One of my favorite authors, Henri Nouwen, also wrote an article entitled “Anger’s Burden.” Nouwen pointed out that we need not fear anger, Jesus’ or our own. Anger can be revealing; it shows us what is important to us and reveals our investments. If we allow it, anger can lead us deeper into ourselves, into deeper relationships with others and with God. We need not fear our anger because it is a genuine, God-given emotion. It gives us the energy we need to fight unfair treatment and injustice. It can motivate us to fight for ourselves and others. In this past year we have heard many angry voices and it frightens many of us. However, there are those in the #MeToo movement who cry out for justice for women and there are many who fight for racial equality and justice as well.

Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross wrote extensively about grief and described five stages through which the grieving pass: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Anger is an important part of that journey. As we greet the end of a year with COVID we all have a lot to grieve and anger is a normal and natural part of that process. Our Church Administrator Kelly Tyrrell put it well, “our temples have been defiled!” Just as Jesus responded naturally with anger at the defilement of God’s Temple, we need not shy away from our anger as we confront all the ways in which our temples have been defiled by this horrendous virus. All that we love and value has been threatened.

Like Jesus, may we have the courage to admit and share our anger. In admitting it we are empowered to act. In acknowledging our anger we come to know ourselves and others better. Our anger need not lead to violence, but it can empower us to act for ourselves and others. Instead of leading us astray, our anger can lead us deeper. Our anger really can be a gift from God.

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## March 7, 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*
- Cliff Cheney, *with liver cancer, friend of Elaine Parman*

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

Edenton Christian Church and Rev. Christy Ahmose

### 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

## How Firm a Foundation

Text: "K" in John Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns, 1787*

Music: *American Folk Melody; Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word! What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, up held by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; for I will be near thee, they troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design they dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."