



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 March 28, 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 invite you to follow along with this printed service.

Community Prayer

O God of praise and passion, we thank you for allowing us to come on this journey with you. Through your steadfast example we learn perseverance, obedience, and redemption. May we take extra care to pay attention to the world around us, as we prepare for this week of highs and lows, ups and downs, and guard our hearts to be loyal through it all. Thank you for adopting us as your children, through your Son, Jesus. 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](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 to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

Many: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.

One: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

Many: We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.

One: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

Many: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.

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

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!
- ² Let Israel say,
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'
- ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
- ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- ²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!
- ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name
of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- ²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.
- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to
you;
you are my God, I will extol you.
- ²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Mark 11:1-11

- ¹ When they were approaching Jerusalem,
at Bethphage and Bethany, near the
Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disci-
ples ² and said to them, 'Go into the village
ahead of you, and immediately as you en-
ter it, you will find tied there a colt that
has never been ridden; untie it and bring
it. ³ If anyone says to you, "Why are you
doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs
it and will send it back here immediate-
ly." ' ⁴ They went away and found a colt
tied near a door, outside in the street. As
they were untying it, ⁵ some of the by-
standers said to them, 'What are you do-
ing, untying the colt?' ⁶ They told them
what Jesus had said; and they allowed
them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the
colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it;
and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread
their cloaks on the road, and others
spread leafy branches that they had cut in
the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead
and those who followed were shouting,
'Hosanna!
- Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord!
- ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our
ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!
- ¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went in-
to the temple; and when he had looked
around at everything, as it was already
late, he went out to Bethany with the
twelve.

Reflection

Meditation for Palm Sunday

“Take Time to Look Around”

“Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.” Like Rev. Roger Gent, editor of the *Presbyterian Outlook*, I was struck by this closing verse of our Gospel lesson for today. However, it struck me differently. Gent explores the ways in which Mark lifts up the various times throughout the Gospel in which Jesus looked at something or someone. Unlike Gench, this scene in the Temple at the end of this busy day struck me with a bit of melancholy.

Have you ever prepared to leave somewhere that you feared you would never see again? On one of our last days in Jerusalem, I wanted to spend time in the Jewish Quarter gazing at the Western Wall of the Temple. During our month in Israel we had spent a lot of time in the Old City at the Western Wall and on the Temple Mount. As our time drew to a close, I wanted those final moments at the Western Wall because I had a sense I would probably never be there again. The final visit was also late in the day. I can still picture the late afternoon sun shining on the ancient light brown bricks of the Wall. A few stragglers prayed at the Wall while others milled around the open square. Since the day was late, it was quiet and peaceful. I was so grateful for the opportunity to be in this holy place, and at the same time, a deep melancholy filled my heart. I would probably never be in this place again.

I wonder if Jesus felt that way, too. Perhaps he looked around the Temple and sensed that he would never be there again in the same way. What a full day it had been for him and his Disciples. Until I really pondered this version of the entry into Jerusalem, I had always imagined that this scene unfolded in the morning and was over by midday. Yet Mark told us that at the end of this experience “it was already late.” Jesus had obviously planned this day carefully, as he had a message to communicate. He gave explicit instructions to two of the Disciples and told them: “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it.”

I don’t know much about horses, but as child we had a pony named Molly. She had one colt and my brother named him “Shortstop.” Although he quickly grew taller than his mother, I still remember his gangly legs and his slight frame. Whenever I could persuade him to come close, which was not very often, I loved petting his soft downy coat. I still cannot imagine a

grown man riding him. I do not think Shortstop would have allowed it. On top of that, Jesus basically rode him bareback, some of the Disciples threw cloaks on its back but there was no saddle. The image makes me chuckle a bit.

And yet, it is clear that Jesus was making a statement. The crowd greeted him as a descendant of the great King David. As the descendant of a King, Jesus could be permitted the honor of riding into Jerusalem on a mighty horse befitting royalty. But Jesus was a different kind of ruler; Jesus entered as the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ. Humility, not majesty, was on his mind. So, Jesus entered the great city of Jerusalem humbly on the back of a colt. Echoes of our Psalm from today must have been in the minds of many gathered together on that day. The crowd was jubilant and shouts of “Hosanna, save us!” ran through the air. After passing through the old, winding streets of the city, the procession finally ends at the huge Temple. The crowd dispersed, the colt was returned to its rightful owner, and Jesus stood in the Holy Temple. After such a long day filled with all kinds of emotions, Jesus stood and looked around at everything before leaving for Bethany.

Our story today invites us to stop and look around at everything. As we enter Holy Week, what things do we see around and within us? What memories surface? What do we notice that we have not seen before? When most of us left worship on Palm Sunday two years ago, who imagined that we would ever have a Palm Sunday or an Easter when we did not gather in the sanctuary of First Christian Church? In our Lenten devotion by Mary Alice Mulligan, *Go to Jerusalem*, she invites us to reflect upon past Palm Sundays and Holy Weeks. Like Jesus standing in the Temple looking around at everything, we are invited to pause and take some time to look around at everything around us and within us. We are invited to take some time, to take a deep breath, to look around, and prepare for our journey through Holy Week towards Easter. May we embrace Mulligan’s closing prayer for Palm Sunday: “Blessed are you, child of David’s line, continuing your journey. As Holy Week begins, give me strength to keep holding your hand.”

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

March 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*
- Mark Carpenter, *with colon cancer, brother of Jill Carpenter and Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Roger Christianson, *with stage 4 cancer, father of Brady Christianson*

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 Burkhart*
- Tomi, *healing prayers for cancer diagnosis, friend of Sara Lugn*
- Mother of Dave Schwaninger, *upon recent stroke, friend of Marcia Foster*
- Carson Mousel, *13-year-old grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer*
- Judy Nord, *with bile duct cancer, friend of Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Our condolences to the family of Cliff Cheney, *upon his recent passing, friend of Elaine Parman*
- Betty Finck, *with aggressive cancer, friend of Pastor Karen*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:
Elwood Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Raul Santiago-Rivera serving in Puerto Rico

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, 820

Music: Melchior Teschner, 1614

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and blessed One.

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems
before thee we present.

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

To thee, before thy passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayer we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King!

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

