



# 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

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**Week of April 4, 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

Dear God, your Son is Risen! Who are we that we get to join in this resurrection of new life and conquering death? Who are we that Jesus has opened up a world of new possibilities and opportunities to recommit our lives to him and to you? Lord, we pray in gratitude, exaltation, and pure joy that this is the day that you have made. A day of new beginnings, a day where death no longer holds its sting. May our hearts swell with this love for you long after Easter is over, may we rejoice in being your children. 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>

### Call to Worship

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

One: This is the day:

Many: When tears are wiped away; shattered hearts are mended; fears are replaced with joy.

One: This is the day the Lord:

Many: Rolls away stones of fear; throws off death's clothes; goes ahead of us into God's future.

One: This is the day the Lord has made:

Many: Death has no fear for us; sin has lost its power over us; God opens the tombs of our hearts to fill us with life.

One: This is the day - Easter Day!

Many: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

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

## *Isaiah 25:6-9*

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

## *Mark 16:1-8*

<sup>1</sup> When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup> And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup> They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' <sup>4</sup> When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' <sup>8</sup> So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for Easter Sunday*

### “Jesus Saves!”

An email circulated a few years ago about an ongoing argument between Jesus and Satan. Each of them was convinced that he was the best at working on a computer. God had finally had it and declared that a contest would be set up between them that would run for two hours. At the end of the contest God would examine the results and declare the winner. At the appointed time, each of them sat down at their computer and they began. They did everything you can imagine; they used their mouse, they created documents, they sent emails and added attachments, they created spreadsheets and PowerPoints, they did everything possible on a computer. Suddenly, there was a flash of lightning and a roll of thunder and, you guessed it, the power went out. Satan sat and stared at the blank screen in disbelief. Once the power returned they each restarted their computers. Satan sat dejected and screamed “it’s gone, it’s all gone!” Then he looked over at Jesus who was printing off all his work. Satan screamed “wait, he obviously cheated! How can it be that he has all his work?” God just shrugged and said “Jesus saves.”

Fortunately, that simple statement is Good News for us today; we are assured that “Jesus Saves.” Both of our scripture lessons today remind us of God’s salvific work for humanity. The prophet Isaiah reminded an exile-weary people “It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” In our Gospel lesson, the messenger at the tomb assured the women that Jesus had been raised from the dead and that he would go before them to Galilee. Through the death and resurrection

of Jesus, God brought the salvation promised to humanity earlier. God’s salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus opened up the future for the women at the tomb and for us today.

Like the women at the tomb, we are called into this new future, no longer bound by the past. I find it striking that Mark’s account of the resurrection ended with the empty tomb. We do not have any resurrection appearances; after chatting with the young man in the tomb, the women flee in terror and amazement. Perhaps the intent of the author of this Gospel was to create an opening for this new future brought about by the resurrection. The young man pointed the women to a future in which they would encounter the Risen Lord. The encounter in Galilee would be a familiar place but Jesus and the Disciples would all be changed.

Just like the women at the tomb we are invited into an open future. We are called to live as Easter people which means trusting that Jesus leads us into that future. We may meet Jesus in familiar places, but we are all changed. This is particularly true this Easter as we move through this year of pandemic. We know we have all been changed and that the future is open and uncertain. However, it is through this open future that we come to experience the real depth in the simple assertion that Jesus Saves! Although grounded in the past, we are invited to let Jesus lead us into the future. We are also reminded that this new future is meant for everyone. It’s really that simple, Jesus saves!

AMEN

# Prayers & Praises

## April 4, 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:

- 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 Lugin*
- 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*
- 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:

Fairbury First Christian Church and Rev. Darlene Novotny

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Brigitte Eale serving in Kenya

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministries partners at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)

# Song of the Week

## Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739

Music: Robert Williams, 1817

“Christ the Lord is risen today!” Alleluia!  
All creation join to say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives and again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!  
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!  
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!  
Rise Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

