



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 April 11, 2021



Call to Worship

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

One: The Word of life spoke:

Many: So we could hear the "Alleluias!" of the angels.

One: The Word of life reached out:

Many: So we could touch the hope which heals us.

One: The Word of life walked out of death's dreaded tomb:

Many: So we could follow him into life forever.

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

Alleluia, your Son is Risen! O God, we come to you with joyful hearts as Eastertide begins. Not only are we celebrating Jesus' resurrection from the hands of death, but also that he is with us always. Lord, let us be like the disciples awaiting for the return of Jesus. Let the Holy Spirit fill us and encourage us to live by faith and not by sight alone. We know that you are a good God and we can trust that you reach into our lives for the good of each of us. May our faith guide us into the light of eternal life promised by your Son, Jesus. Alleluia and 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.

www.fcclincoln.org/youtube

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

Acts 4:32-35

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reflection

Meditation for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

“Jesus is Still Persistently Present with Us”

So often when we hear or read this passage from the Gospel of John our minds flash to the title “Doubting Thomas.” Perhaps it is because many of us relate to that character in the story. Like Thomas, many of us have struggled with periods of doubt and unbelief. As I began pondering this passage for today’s sermon, I have to confess that is where my mind went. I thought of the most recent book by well-known author Brian McLaren entitled *Faith after Doubt*. But, as I continued to ponder this passage, I was reminded that the main character of this story is intended to be Jesus. This passage recounts the second resurrection appearance in this Gospel. After appearing to Mary, Jesus went to the Disciples.

Since our focus is generally on Thomas, we often miss some other key elements about this story. Jesus’ presence addressed the fear and hostility that were present particularly for his Disciples and followers. Jesus’ physical presence with the Disciples fulfilled earlier promises he made; Jesus repeatedly promised to remain with them even after his death. Jesus was present to them in a new and different way, but he was still present. Not only was Jesus physically present to them, which would have been enough, but he also brought peace, joy, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to them in the midst of their fear, anxiety, and sorrow. Jesus brought the promised companion and literally “breathes” in them the Holy Spirit. Just as God “breathed” the universe into being, so Jesus breathed into them the Holy Spirit.

Another striking feature of this story that I think is often overlooked is Jesus’ persistence. When Jesus learned that one of the Disciples, Thomas, was not present during

this initial visit, Jesus returned to make sure that Thomas was included. Not only did Jesus return, but he presented the very evidence that Thomas said he needed. Once again, Jesus presented the physical evidence of his wounded hands and side. Jesus wanted to be sure that *all* the Disciples knew that he was the one who had been crucified days earlier. Jesus wanted to be sure that they *all* knew he had risen from the dead.

And now, we gather together on this 2nd Sunday of Easter to remember and celebrate these same things. We are also mindful of the many promises Jesus made throughout his earthly life to remain present even, and especially, after his death. Last week we celebrated the realization of those promises as we came together for worship. We, like the Disciples, also come with our own fears, anxieties, and sorrows. Our Gospel lesson today reminds us that Jesus still brings peace, joy, and the Holy Spirit.

We live in fearful and anxious times. As we hopefully move towards the end of this global pandemic, we have been scarred by fear and anxiety. At times we may have wondered where God’s Spirit was during these past months. It is in the midst of these fears and anxieties that Jesus continues to breathe in us the Holy Spirit of peace and joy. Perhaps the greatest message for us today is the reminder of Jesus’ persistence. Jesus comes to us in ways that include us *all*. Jesus comes to us in various ways that touch each of us according to our need. Jesus brings new life to us all and to all creation.

Alleluia and AMEN!

Prayers & Praises

April 11, 2021

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Rae Hope Putney
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Vic Burgess
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Mildred Brockemeyer

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 Burkhardt*
- 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, *praise for improvements, friend of Pastor Karen*

Our Timothy's:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

Faith Christian Church and Rev. Lisa Sherman

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Fiona Kendall serving in Italy

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



Song of the Week

My Savior Lives

Text & Music by New Life Worship

Our God will reign forever
And all the world will know His name
Everyone together
Sing the song of the redeemed

I know that my redeemer lives
And now I stand on what He did
My Savior, my Savior lives
Every day a brand new chance to say
Jesus, you are the only way
My Savior, my Savior lives

The King is come from Heaven
And darkness trembles at his name
Victory forever
Is the song of the redeemed, yeah

I know that my redeemer lives
And now I stand on what He did
My Savior, my Savior lives
Every day a brand new chance to say
Jesus, you are the only way
My Savior, my Savior lives

Come on and sing it out, my Savior lives
My Savior lives, my Savior lives
My Savior lives, my Savior lives
My Savior lives, my Savior lives
My Savior lives, my Savior lives

I know that my redeemer lives
And now I stand on what He did
My Savior, my Savior lives
Every day a brand new chance to say
Jesus, you are the only way
My Savior, my Savior lives