



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 18, 2021



Call to Worship

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

One: We are witnesses,

Many: To the love God has poured into us.

One: We are witnesses of God's love,

Many: Sharing it with each person we meet.

One: We are witnesses to everyone we encounter,

Many: Little children like us, sisters and brothers in God's family.

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

New life is springing up all around us, Dear Lord. Thank you for the majesty of your earth! We pray to you in awe that you are the God of the tulips, the God of the pear trees, and yet we get to be called your children. Sometimes it is all too unbelievable: that your Son rose from the dead to be with us, that we are worthy to accept the peace that Jesus offers us, and it defies our instincts to focus on the renewal all around us. Eastertide is a season of refreshment, of all things being made new, least of all us. Help us lean into the new life you have in store for us. We pray in the name of 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.

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

Psalm 4

Luke 24:36b-48

To the leader: with stringed instruments.
A Psalm of David.

¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

You gave me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

² How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

Selah

³ But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;

the LORD hears when I call to him.

⁴ When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

Selah

⁵ Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶ There are many who say, 'O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!

⁷ You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

⁸ I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?' ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.'

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.'

Reflection

Meditation for the 3rd Sunday of Easter

“Truly Startling News, Indeed”

Have you ever noticed? The longest season of the church year, outside Ordinary Time, is Eastertide. The word “tide” can refer to “a period of time” or it can refer to rising water levels. It often refers to the highest level a body of water can attain. The season of Easter stretches from Easter Sunday until Pentecost which is the 23rd of May this year. Lent is 5 weeks and Advent and the season of Christmas are about 5 or 6 weeks. The length of Easter tells us a lot. Eastertide reminds us of the centrality of Easter and the events that occurred then. The raising of Jesus from the dead is the core event in the Christian life and the high tide of our faith.

The resurrection of Jesus is also the event that stirs up the greatest mixture of feelings and thoughts. Throughout these 7 weeks we hear the many versions of the resurrection as told by the different Gospel writers and the author of the Acts of the Apostles. Each version of the story tells us something different, but there are some shared elements. One element that weaves its way throughout the various stories is the mixed reaction of the witnesses.

In our passage today we are told by the author of Luke that the Disciples were “startled and terrified” when Jesus stood in their midst. I wonder if Jesus suspected that their response would be mixed because he began this encounter, as well as many of the others, with the phrase “peace be with you.” Admittedly, this was and still is a common greeting in the Middle East, but I cannot help but wonder if there was more to it than that. Perhaps he knew they would be “startled and terrified” so he made a point of greeting them with the sign of peace. It also seems clear that they would not know what to make of his presence. The only conclusion that seemed consistent with their knowledge at the time was to assume that he was a ghost.

With this in mind, Jesus worked hard to demonstrate that he was physically present with them. He was not a ghost or an apparition. To

prove it he showed them his once wounded hands and feet and then he ate with them. The resurrection was so new and unexpected that Jesus has to repeatedly show them and us what it really meant. Jesus has been bodily raised from the dead and exists in a radically new way. Startling and terrifying news, indeed.

So, what does the resurrection of Jesus mean for us today, more than 2000 years later? In many ways we still come to experience this Good News of the resurrection by being “startled and terrified.” When we think about it, we have to admit it is still pretty startling news. It is something that is challenging to understand unless one has experienced the Risen Christ. As we gather for worship and spend time with God in our own times of prayer we, like the Disciples, find our minds opened as we study scripture. As we look around us and see the signs of new life, we have glimpses of this startling event. Perhaps the Good News of the resurrection resonates for us in a new way as we begin to make our way through the pandemic towards a sense of new life. We still carry the terror of all that has happened to us and our world, but we are reminded that the final word is God’s. New life does arise even in the midst of pandemic. Like the Disciples we are called to witness to the new life all around us. We are called to share the fulfilled promise of God that life in Christ triumphs over death. We are able to lay aside our terror and embrace the startling news of God’s ongoing presence with us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Undoubtedly we will need all these Sundays of Eastertide to absorb this Good News.

AMEN!

Prayers & Praises

April 18, 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 Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

Falls City First Christian Church and Rev. Fay Ann Blaylock

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Kahala Cannon serving in Eswatini

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



Song of the Week

Thine Is the Glory

Text: Edmond Louis Burdy, 1884

Music: George Frederick Handel, 1748

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes
where thy body lay.

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting.

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above.

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*