



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

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Week of May 23, 2021



Call to Worship

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

One: The Day of Pentecost is here.

Many: The day when the flames of faith dance in our hearts.

One: The Day of Pentecost is here.

Many: The day when our babbling speech becomes the Good News for the world.

One: The Day of Pentecost is here.

Many: The day when compassion is seared into our souls.

One: The Day of Pentecost is here.

Many: Let the people of God rejoice. Alleluia!

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, how grateful we are to be a part of your church. As we remember today that day so long ago when the church first formed, we are reminded how blessed we are to be considered your people. Just as you acknowledged and dignified the vast diversity of that original Pentecost crowd, so too help us to see and respect all people, no matter how different they are from ourselves. Set our hearts on fire to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the ends of the earth. Fill us with the Holy Spirit that our gifts may be realized and our destinies fulfilled. We pray in the name of 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

Acts 2:1-21

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'

¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all
flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall
prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and
women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven
above

and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great
and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name
of the Lord shall be saved."

Reflection

Meditation for Pentecost

“The Presence and Power of God”

Our dramatic reading for this Sunday lifts up the three key elements of the story of Pentecost: “the Fire, the Wind, the Water.” Generally, when we think of these three elements we are keenly aware how incompatible they are with one another. Wind fuels fire and often causes it to spread. Water quenches fire. These three natural elements simply do not go together. And yet, on the day of Pentecost all three elements were present. These three elements represented the traditional ways in which God has been experienced throughout time. God was present to Moses in a burning bush. God guided the Israelites from bondage to freedom in a pillar of fire. God did not simply manifest through fire, God was also in the Wind. The Psalms often described God’s voice present in the wind. God’s presence was also experienced through the medium of water. God created the world from the waters of chaos. God led the people of Israel through the waters to freedom. Water became the medium of forgiveness and transformation in the act of baptism. Throughout scripture God manifested in the Fire, the Wind, and the Water.

Unchecked these three elements can be terrifying. Fire can ravage entire cities. Wind can devastate entire communities. Water can wreak devastation through flooding. However, as an instrument of God, all three elements can manifest the presence and power of God. At first glance, the day of Pentecost must have seemed terrifying and out of control. Tongues of fire flitted around the disciples as the wind whipped through the house in which they gathered. People began speaking all at once. It must have seemed quite chaotic. And yet, in the midst of all this activity rings out a clear message. God was in

their midst and God’s power was evident in the tongues of fire and in the mighty wind. God brought unity to this diverse group. In the midst of this unity, the crowd heard the Good News in their own languages. God did not accomplish this by making them all speak the same language, the diversity of their languages remained. However, in the midst of this diversity they were able to comprehend the Good News of God’s presence and power. They heard and understood the Good News of God’s presence and power through the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. They learned that the power and presence of God was with them as witnessed by Jesus the Christ. They experienced the presence and power of God as the Holy Spirit descended upon them and as they were baptized that day. They experienced the power and presence of God through the Fire, the Wind, and the Water.

Our experience of the power and presence of God may not be as dramatic as we gather together today, but, symbolically we share in their reality. The presence and power of God abides with us today as it did with those gathered on that first Pentecost. The symbols of Fire, Wind, and Water remind us of God’s ongoing presence and power in our lives, our congregation, our community, our nation, and our world. As the Holy Spirit rests on us today, we are called to rejoice in the ongoing presence and power of God as the Holy Spirit dwells among us.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

May 23, 2021

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Jessica Vocasek
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Vic Burgess
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Dave Harris

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Rick Pickel, for entering hospice care, 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 his current tour of duty is coming to an end and he is heading home, cousin of D'Arcy Blosser
- 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
- Kristen, sister of Leigh Lestina

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 Lugn
- Judy Nord, with bile duct cancer, friend of Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Jim Bottolfsen, for stage 3 lung cancer, friend of the Vocaseks

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Kamp Kaleo on the River and their Staff, Campers, and Counselors

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Eleazar Fernandez serving in the Philippines

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



Song of the Week

Come Down, O Love Divine

Text: Bianco da Siena, 1367

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Come down, O Love Divine;
seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near;
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
And let you glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round,
the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass
the power of human telling.
For none can guess God's grace,
till Love creates a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Worship Playlist

Below are links to the songs for this week's worship and reflection. If you have access to the internet, you can type in the links below - OR - you can type the name of each song into YouTube's search engine to enjoy the music this week.

Come Down, O Love Divine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgUFay0th9A>

Performed by All Saints Church, Down Ampney

He Reigns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKTqwBetIII>

Performed by Newsboys

