



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 May 30, 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 loving Creator, we praise your holy name in thanksgiving for the life you have given us, for the unique purpose you have instilled in each one of us. Lord, sometimes our lives get so busy, it feels like a rushing wave beating against the rocks. Help us to listen for that still, small voice calling us to be your disciples. And more than just hear our call, encourage us to heed it. May we not be consumed by the fear and anxiety that our world can cause, but still our hearts in the chaos to seek only you. May you qualify and purify us to serve as your hands and feet on earth. We pray in the name of your Son, 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

Call to Worship

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

One: God, who flung the stars into the night sky, rejoices over all creation, especially us!

Many: Come to us, Laughing God, and gladden our hearts with your goodness and grace.

One: Christ, the Word of joy and life, fills all creation with hope, especially us!

Many: Come to us, Brother and Savior, and reclaim our hearts as your own.

One: The Spirit, who breathes life into emptiness, gives all creation the gift of peace, especially us!

Many: Come to us, Spirit of Gentleness, and refresh us with the dew of delight.

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 6:1-8

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

Romans 8:12-17

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.



Reflection

Meditation for 1st Sunday after Pentecost

“Shaped by Anxiety and Uncertainty”

“In the year that King Uzziah died” is how our passage from Isaiah begins. It must have been a major turning point in the life of Israel. It was obviously a major event, so important that it is used to talk about time and other life events. Probably in the same way we make reference to life before 9/11 or after. Now we will probably talk about time in reference to pre-COVID and post-COVID. The death of King Uzziah brought a tremendous amount of anxiety. His reign had been a time of prosperity, so much so that many felt it had become a time of decadence. Economic prosperity was not the only hallmark of his reign. While Uzziah reigned, the nation had also known great military success and they had vanquished numerous enemies. Uzziah’s reign was also a time of prolific building projects. Sadly, as often happens, their prosperity also cultivated outside threats.

So what would happen now? Would the days of prosperity be over? Would the nation rebound? Who would rule them now and what would this new ruler be like? Does any of that sound familiar? Perhaps we can resonate as we move into a new administration and as we begin to emerge from COVID. Will our economy rebound? Will jobs return? Will businesses thrive again? What will the world be like now? What will the Church be like as we move into this unknown future?

In the midst of all this anxiety and uncertainty, Isaiah had a vision, and what a vision it was! If there was ever a passage that lifted up multi-sensory worship this would definitely be it! In this short passage we have sights, sounds, smells, and touch. Every sense of Isaiah’s was engaged in this experience of the Holy. Isaiah saw all kinds of things: the Lord of Hosts whose very being filled this massive temple and a massive throne on which God sat, heavenly beings, the Seraphim flying all around him, an altar, burning coals, and metal tongs. Isaiah felt the shaking of everything around him as the Seraphim called out and there was the sensation, probably a painful one, of fiery coals against his lips. His nostrils took in the smell of the smoke. He heard the Seraphim calling out and the voice of God. Isaiah even tasted forgiveness as the burning coal touched his lips. What an incredible experience this must have been. Doesn’t it make you quiver as you hear it?

What happened within Isaiah that made such a vision possible? Perhaps it was the very uncertainty and anxiety of his times that opened up his heart and empowered him to have this incredible vision. It is critical to recognize that Isaiah did not approach God with pride or arrogance. He approached God with great humility. His initial utterance was: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” Isaiah recognized his unworthiness and laid it out before God who acknowledged it by sending one of the Seraphim with a burning coal from the altar to touch those unworthy lips. Then Isaiah heard: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”

This powerful vision does not end there. “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” In the midst of his vulnerability, uncertainty, and fear, Isaiah knew that this vision was not simply meant for him as a gift. Isaiah opened his heart and mind and was touched by God. Isaiah gave fully of himself and directly experienced the Holy. Isaiah was fully present and all of his senses were engaged. In the midst of all these swirling sensations, thoughts, and feelings, God issued the call and Isaiah answered. We may not experience the Holy in such dramatic ways, but God’s call comes to us in the midst of our anxiety and uncertainty. Will we open our hearts and minds to God’s call on our lives? When God asks “whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Will we faithfully answer as Isaiah did “here am I, send me!” Our call need not be as dramatic as Isaiah’s, but God calls each and every one of us. As our small group works through our course on spiritual gifts we are each reminded that God gives us all different gifts. We are each and every one of us called to go forth to love and serve God.

As we move through and beyond this time of COVID may we be reminded that God is in our midst, touching all aspects of our lives and inviting us to love and serve God wherever God sends us. In the year that COVID ended how will these times open us up to the presence and call of God?

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

May 30, 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*
- 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 Frogge *at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, *Creative Arts Ministry in Lincoln, NE*

In the Nebraska Region:

- Inglesia Discipulos and Rev. Daniel Zapata

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Elena Huegel serving in Mexico

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



Song of the Week

Holy, Holy Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1827

Music: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song
shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons,
blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness
thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy;
there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name,
in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

