



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 June 27, 2021



Call to Worship

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

One: With friends and strangers, with family and neighbors, we gather:

Many: Come among us, Healing God, with that love which never ends.

One: With faith reaching out to touch, with hearts straining to trust, we hope:

Many: Come among us, Friend of the broken, with your compassion which makes us whole.

One: With word and wonder, with silence and song, we wait:

Many: Come among us, Dryer of our tears, to lift us to our feet to follow you.

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 God of power and might, we are so thankful that you are always here for us, not only in our times of joy, but also when we are in despair. Sometimes things feel so bad, so out of place, that we might think prayer isn't even worth the time. But we are wrong: you always hear us. You are always with us to sooth and heal us, to bring us to wholeness with you and one another. Fill us with your Spirit that we may hold on to hope, hold on to faith and trust in you when everyone and everything else has failed us. Remind us that you are almighty, that you can save us even when our hope runs thin. We pray this in the name of the ultimate healer, 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

Psalms 130

A Song of Ascents.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you,
O LORD.

² Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
⁴ But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul
waits,
and in his word I hope;
⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for
the morning, more than those who
watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to
redeem.
⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Mark 5:21-43

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' ²⁴ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' ²⁹ Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' ³¹ And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' ³² He looked all round to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

³⁵ While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' ³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' ³⁷ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Reflection

Meditation for 5th Sunday after Pentecost

“Audaciously Hopeful”

Our two scripture passages for today describe some really desperate people. The Psalmist wrote a prayer born out of despair and both our main characters in the Gospel demonstrate a similar sense of desperation. Jairus came to Jesus on behalf of his ailing daughter and the woman with the hemorrhage timidly came for herself. Have you ever felt that kind of desperation? Perhaps you feel it now. What do we do when we feel that kind of desperation? Like the Psalmist, we may cry out to God in prayer. Perhaps we struggle to reach out to God like the woman did. Or we may simply make our request to God as Jairus did.

Many people tend to draw within themselves, reluctant to share their despair with others. When we find ourselves in this place of despair it is often challenging. Moving through the struggle and pain is difficult and often lonely. Having the patience to wait and endure can be very difficult, too. Perhaps one of the most challenging components of such desperation is believing that God hears us and cares.

When we find ourselves in these times of desperation, what are we really wanting? In all three instances, we hear that people sought healing. But, what do we really mean by that? The Greek in our passage from Mark, which is related to the Hebrew word “shalom”, is “sozo” which is a word with many meanings. The world literally means “to save, keep safe and sound, rescue from danger or destruction.” It can also mean “save from injury or peril,” or to save a suffering person from perishing. Since it can also mean to save from the suffering of disease, it can mean to make well, heal, or restore to health which is the meaning here in Mark. Like the concept of “shalom” it can mean to restore a person to health and wholeness. This is a relational process, not simply an agent acting upon a passive recipient. The process begins with an awareness of one’s neediness before God and it involves a willingness to reach out to God and others. True healing in this context requires a receptiveness on the part of

the one seeking healing. This is particularly true when healing does not come in the ways we expect.

In her article for the *Presbyterian Outlook*, Rachel Young, associate pastor at Clear Lake Presbyterian Church in Houston, suggests that another powerful element in this story is the similarity between the two seemingly different characters in our Gospel lesson. She notes: “Maybe Jairus and the woman are not so different after all. Their situations are desperate, they have exhausted all other resources for healing and Jesus nearly defies their expectations by doing that for which they hoped.” Young went on to mention: “In *Feasting on the Gospels: Mark*, commentator Allen Verhey notes that both Jairus and the unnamed woman exhibit “audacious hope.” Audacious hope — not reasonable hope or hope that rests on a pretty good chance that it will be fulfilled. It is hope that has exhausted all other options. It is hope when there is no good reason to hope.” The Psalmist also shared this “audacious hope” and all those in our passages today invite us to do the same.

As one of my favorite Star Trek characters Mr. Spock would often say, “it is illogical.” And yet, we are invited to hope with audacity and to trust in our God who yearns to bring healing and wholeness into our lives and our world. Just like all three of our main characters, we are invited to reach out to God and one another. We are not alone; God responds. It may take longer than we would wish and it may not come in the ways we expect, but God invites us to trust and share our audacious hope which calls us to healing and wholeness. Being “healed” by God also impels us to reach out to others and offer healing.

We are called to reach out as people who sometimes despair. We are invited to believe in and trust in the presence and power of God. We are invited to be “audaciously hopeful.”

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

June 27, 2021

In Our Church Family:

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

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Rick Pickel, for entering hospice care, son of Dick & Roxie Pickel
- 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
- Gene Gangwish, prayers for healing in the ICU, father of Lindsay Swanson
- David Sovey, prayers for successful surgery, grandson of Harold and Donna Baker

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
- Carson Mousel, 13-year-old grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Minden FCC and Rev. Joe Tira

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Cindy Moraga serving in Mexico

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



Song of the Week

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1931

Music: Harold Friedell, 1957

Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
for when humbly in your name
two or three are met together,
you are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Here we touch your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather
in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver
break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
so now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living
make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving,
we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will serve with faith anew.

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.

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cY6k2QhdCn0>

Performed by Together for the Gospel Live

Healer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2W88vWt30A>

Performed by Kari Jobe

