



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 July 4, 2021

Hospitality: God's Love
Made Visible

Call to Worship

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

One: In the sun which banishes the shadows, in the birds who chorale us awake:

Many: It was you, Creation's Joy, leading us into this new day.

One: In the touch healing long-grasped grudges, in the laughter of children which nudges us into hope:

Many: It is you, Soul Friend, who walks each step of the way with us.

One: In the compassion melting icy hearts, in the peace silencing our boastful voices:

Many: It will be you, Gentle Wisdom, who guides us into the kingdom.

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 gracious God of never ending welcome, thank you for giving us the gift of community, family, and friends. Continually remind us to cherish these people that we know so well, and encourage us to look for new and novel ways to show them hospitality. God, open our hearts to those we don't know, for we will never know what we are missing if we don't show them welcome. When we show love for all and treat others with hospitality, regardless of how well we know them, we are following in the ways of Jesus. Jesus tells his disciples to rely on radical welcome; he knows we are capable of it. Give us the strength to live up to his expectations. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus, our model. 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

2 Samuel 5:1-10

¹ Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, 'Look, we are your bone and flesh.' ² For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.' ³ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴ David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for forty years. ⁵ At Hebron he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years.

⁶ The king and his men marched to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, 'You will not come in here, even the blind and the lame will turn you back'—thinking, 'David cannot come in here.' ⁷ Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, which is now the city of David. ⁸ David had said on that day, 'Whoever wishes to strike down the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack the lame and the blind, those whom David hates.' Therefore it is said, 'The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.' ⁹ David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inwards. ¹⁰ And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

Mark 6:1-13

¹ He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. ² On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honor, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Reflection

Meditation for 6th Sunday after Pentecost

“Love All and Show Hospitality”

Our Gospel lesson today has two seemingly different stories about the life of Jesus. In our first story we learn of Jesus' visit to his hometown in which he is rejected. The second story describes Jesus sending out the Disciples. These stories seem quite different, and yet, there is a theme that draws them together. The theme that runs through both stories is that of hospitality. Each story offers a different perspective and invites us to ponder different aspects of hospitality.

When Jesus came to his hometown he probably hoped to be welcomed by family and friends. Instead, those people that knew him from his youth found it hard to believe that he could be a messenger or prophet of God. At first they were astounded as he entered the Synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach them. Their astonishment quickly turned to offense. They thought they knew him; wasn't he the carpenter, the son of Mary and Joseph? They knew his family and he had grown up in their midst. Jesus painfully realized that “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” The author of this story went on to say: “And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.” Jesus was unable to share God's presence and power with those closest to him and they were unable to receive it. Their astonishment and offense made it impossible to extend true hospitality.

I find myself wondering if this experience led to our next story. The Disciples have seen inhospitality first hand. They have seen their teacher and friend rejected by the very people one would expect to welcome him. With that experience, Jesus and the Disciples move on to the nearby villages. Jesus then called them together and began to send them out in pairs. As he did so, he gave them authority to act and

teach on his behalf. He told them to be prepared to receive the hospitality of others. If there was a household unwilling to extend such hospitality they were invited to leave that place and shake the dust from their feet. This would free them to move on and receive the gift of hospitality from those eager to give it.

These two stories have a lot to teach us about hospitality. Hospitality is an important part of our identity here at FCC and the phrase “show hospitality” is part of our mission statement. Even so, we are invited to consider the various qualities of hospitality. Our first story reminds us of the importance of extending hospitality to those we know best. Sometimes it is easy to overlook family and friends. How could those we know well teach us anything new about God? Jesus' experience in his hometown reminds us that when we close our hearts to those we know best we might impede the presence and power of God. God can, and often does, work through those closest to us. I also found myself wondering if Jesus' experience in his hometown reminded the Disciples that we need to hold on to rejection as we move forward. Having been rejected or not receiving hospitality reminds us what a gift true hospitality is. With this rejection in mind, we are equipped to give genuine hospitality to others. As the Disciples departed they had to be aware of the importance of hospitality to the stranger. Hospitality to the stranger was, and still is, an important part of life in the Middle East.

So, our Gospel lesson today reminds us of the importance of hospitality to friends and strangers alike. May we be inspired to give genuine hospitality to all and may we have the grace to receive when offered to us.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

July 4, 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
- 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*
- Brother and Grandfather of Tony Flack, *prayers for healing from respiratory illness and cancer, from Tony Flack*
- Our deepest sympathy to Dick & Roxie Pickel upon the passing of their son Rick

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 Burkhart*
- 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 Brockmeyer*
- Jamin and Hailey, *for the safe delivery of their baby girl, from Tony Flack*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Murray Christian Church and Rev. Michael Njus

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Martha Mensendiek serving in Japan

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at



Song of the Week

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Text: William Williams, 1762

Music: John Hughes, 1907

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Song of praises, song of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

