



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 January 9, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: Our God is a God of power and strength!

Many: God has created each of us with tender care.

One: Our God is a God of majesty and awe!

Many: God walks with each of us every step of the way.

One: Our God calls us each by name.

Many: God calls each of us to unite in worship together!

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

Is there anything quite so sweet as welcoming new members into our church? Eager youth who have come, participated, learned, and grown in love are coming to us this day to join in your family. Praise be to God! As we enjoy the excitement and hope of our newest members, may we also remember our baptisms, when we took the leap of faith to follow your Son Jesus, and give our lives over to your care. We pray in thanksgiving that we have become one body, one family, one collection of love for you, each other, and our community. Please keep the flame of hope alive in our hearts. 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 worshipping 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 43:1-7

¹ But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are
mine.
² When you pass through the waters, I
will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not
overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall
not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for
you.
⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the
east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the
earth—
⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Luke 3:15-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with
expectation, and all were question-
ing in their hearts concerning John,
whether he might be the Messiah,
¹⁶ John answered all of them by say-
ing, 'I baptize you with water; but
one who is more powerful than I is
coming; I am not worthy to untie the
thong of his sandals. He will baptize
you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand,
to clear his threshing-floor and to
gather the wheat into his granary;
but the chaff he will burn with un-
quenchable fire.'
¹⁸ So, with many other exhorta-
tions, he proclaimed the good news
to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the rul-
er, who had been rebuked by him be-
cause of Herodias, his brother's wife,
and because of all the evil things that
Herod had done, ²⁰ added to them all
by shutting up John in prison.
²¹ Now when all the people were
baptized, and when Jesus also had
been baptized and was praying, the
heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy
Spirit descended upon him in bodily
form like a dove. And a voice came
from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Be-
loved; with you I am well pleased.'

Reflection

Meditation for Baptism of the Lord

“Filled with Expectation”

There used to be an old Saturday Night Live skit entitled “Lowered Expectations.” It was a regular spoof on dating services and the hopes and dreams people bring to their search for companionship. And then there is the quote from the Recovery community “Expectations are resentments waiting to happen.” In the opening line of our Gospel lesson for today we hear: “As the people were filled with expectation...”

What were they hoping for and what did they think was about to happen? The Greek used by the author of Luke can mean wait for, look for, expect, live in suspense, wait, or be on watch. The deeper we go into this passage we learn that everyone involved had different expectations: the people waiting to be baptized by John, John the Baptist, King Herod, and Jesus. On this Baptism of the Lord Sunday, as we prepare to baptize and re-affirm baptismal vows, what expectations do we bring?

In a lectionary study group I was a part of, a colleague suggested that expectation, as understood in the Greek, could carry connotations of fear or hope. Fear and hope were qualities of everyone in our story today. Perhaps the most fearful character was Herod; he feared that the arrival of John the Baptist and Jesus would radically change his life and the world in which he lived and ruled. Herod feared the judgment and justice proclaimed by John. We also know from other passages that he feared the new reign of God that was being brought about with the coming of Jesus. His expectations were grounded in fear. John, on the other hand, proclaimed the Good News of God’s advent into the world that called for repentance. John proclaimed the coming of God’s reign grounded in justice.

Then there was Jesus, in his willingness to submit to the authority of John, he demonstrated love grounded in ultimate obedience to God. Unlike Herod, Jesus fueled expectations based on hope not fear. As he rose from the water, the voice of God proclaimed “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” Undoubt-

edly, all those at the baptism of Jesus had their expectations met and surpassed. In her reflections for *Presbyterian Outlook*, Teri McDowell Ott commented:

Luke’s genealogy for Jesus follows this text, which is bland reading, but testifies to Jesus’ full humanity. He comes from people much like those who line up with him by the river to be baptized. People who can’t get enough love. People who need to hear words of affirmation and encouragement, words of grace, forgiveness and hope. The message of love Jesus receives at baptism sustains him in the wilderness of temptation, through his public ministry, his suffering and his horrific death.

These words can sustain us too, but we also need parents, pastors, friends and loved ones to remind us, often, that we are loved. Too often, the world’s overwhelming message is that we are not good enough, not worthy, not deserving of love. But the message Jesus received in his baptism is the message for every person in line behind him.

Whatever expectations we bring today, whether the excited expectations of the youth entering the baptistery or the yearnings for love carried as we re-affirm and remember our baptism, God’s voice of love calls out to us. May we embrace hopeful expectation as we hear God’s voice say “you are my child, the beloved, with you I am well pleased.”

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

January 9, 2022

In Our Church Family:

- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Our sympathy to Vic Burgess, upon the passing of his sister Patty O'Leary
- Harold & Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Jessica Vocasek

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Greg Ogren, prayers for healing, still ill after surgeries and treatments, son of LaVonne Ogren
- Mark Carpenter, with colon cancer, brother of Jill Carpenter and Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Lorie Chrastel, Mark Carpenter's fiancée, prayers for recovery from a stroke
- Roger Christianson, with stage 4 cancer, father of Brady Christianson
- Mother of John Swanson, prayers for health as she is ill with COVID-19
- Gerald Deterding, prayers for healing from cancer and pneumonia, father of William Deterding
- Our sympathy to the family of Emily Carpenter, upon her recent passing

Friends:

- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, prayers for diagnosis of glioblastoma, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser
- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart
- 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
- Jamin and Hailey, for the safe delivery of their baby girl, from Tony Flack
- Kristen Lanford, prayers for Sarah Sims and prayers for herself to get through this tough winter season

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Alliance First Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Shelby Perez serving in Israel/Palestine



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

Song of the Week

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680

Music: Stralsund Erneuertem Gesangbuch, 1665

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is
thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear,
now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye, the Lord, who o'er all things
so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea,
so greatly sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen
how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that
is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him!

Let the amen
sound from his people again;
gladly for aye we adore him.

Congratulations to the First
Christian Church youth who have
celebrated their Baptisms and
Reaffirmation of their Baptisms:

Keaton Bowker
Riley Bowker
Evan Foster
Hunter Christianson