



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 January 23, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: God's glory is pouring forth from the heavens.

Many: Earth below receives the good news with great joy.

One: The promise is sure and true, that Jesus has come to show us the best ways to serve God.

Many: By serving and caring for others, we truly serve God.

One: Come, let us prepare ourselves for joyful service.

Many: Lord, make us ready for great service in your name. Amen!

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

We enter a prayerful state today to talk to you and listen to what you have to say. But, sometimes it is so hard to sit still, so hard to hear you above the noise in our lives. O God, when prayer feels impossible, fill us with your Spirit and point us to your Word. By giving us the everlasting gift of the Holy Scriptures, your advice, wisdom, encouragement, and love are always right at our fingertips. If we but have the energy to open our Bibles, you are right there by our side. Between prayer and your Word, we have all we need to sustain us and inspire us to serve others in your name. With thanksgiving for this gift we could have never earned, we honor you. 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

Psalm 19

- ¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
² Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

- ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

- ¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
¹² But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

- ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of
my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

- ¹⁸ ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to
the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s
favor.’

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

Reflection

Meditation for 3rd Sunday After Epiphany

“Filled With God’s Spirit”

Often before preaching, many pastors begin by prayerfully repeating the final verse of our Psalm for today: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.” The notes in the NRSV study bible point out that the second half of Psalm 19 was “Praise of God’s will expressed in the Law.” Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures the term “Law” is generally taken from the word *Torah*. It can specifically mean the Law of Moses as brought down from Mount Sinai - or - *Torah* often refers to God’s Word in general. With various phrases the author of this Psalm describes the importance of God’s Word for all believers. God’s Word revives the soul, makes wise the simple, rejoices the heart, and enlightens the eyes. God’s Law is more valuable than gold or riches and sweeter than any honey. The author wanted to impart the idea that the Word of God is no ordinary book.

Both the Psalm and Gospel lesson from the 4th chapter of Luke lift up the importance of scripture. Jesus came to the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was his custom, to worship and interact with the scriptures. He was invited to read the passage for the day from the prophet Isaiah. Once he did, he spoke about the impact of that passage on his life and on the lives of those who heard it. The words from the prophet Isaiah were not just dusty old words read and then put away. Those words were foundational to Jesus throughout his life and ministry.

While I suspect many of us can think of other books that have inspired us, our passages today remind us that the Bible is unique. Its most special aspect is the presence of the Holy Spirit. The author of Luke told us at the beginning of this passage “Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee.” Then Jesus read the passage from Isaiah which be-

gan “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.” Jesus went on to read “because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Once he finished reading he sat down as everyone looked at him and then he said “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Jesus knew these were not simply beautiful words; he knew they were truly inspirational words full of the Spirit.

I know for me, this passage from Luke has been foundational for my own ministry. It has always been my desire to embody these words and to make them real in the lives of others. Unlike other books, we are invited to abide in the words of the Bible in a particular way. The words of Holy Scripture shape us, uphold us, and sustain us in unique ways. The Bible can be challenging reading. As Frederick Buechner said in *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*, there are a lot of compelling reasons to NOT read the Bible. But, the most compelling reasons TO read the Bible is the reality that the Bible is about us *and* about God.

The Bible captures the best and the worst of us. The Bible expresses the often inexpressible nature of God. The author of the Psalms knew this and Jesus knew it, too. We are called not just to read the Bible but to reside in it and let it rest in us. Whether today’s passage resonates with you or not, we are invited to continue being shaped by God’s Word today and throughout our lives. May our souls be revived, our hearts filled with joy, and our lives challenged by God’s holy words given to us yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

January 23, 2022

In Our Church Family:

- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Kindra Foster
- Harold & Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Jessica Vocasek
- Lois Frogge

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*
- Gerald Deterding, *prayers for healing from cancer and pneumonia, father of William Deterding*

Friends:

- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, *prayers for diagnosis of glioblastoma, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt*
- 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*

Our Timothy's:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Aurora FCC and Rev. Penny Schulz

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Andrew Larsen serving in the Philippines

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



Song of the Week

This Is My Father's World

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

Music: Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings,
and round me rings
the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world.
O, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong
seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world.
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
and earth and heaven be one.



We are currently working on the First Christian Church 2022 Directory. If your entry has changed, please let us know! If you have a new address, phone number, email, or other way of contacting you, add it to the list!

If you have any questions about the Directory or the data collection process, please get in touch with the FCC office, 402-475-4289 or info@fcclincoln.org.

