



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 February 6, 2022



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

Lord, sometimes we are frustrated, tired, and lonely. It seems like the best opportunities come when we aren't ready. When we are drained by life and weary of having to do yet another thing. Other times, when we reach out to friends, we remember the community we have in the church and how lucky we are to have each other. So, we pray with both exhaustion and hope. Remind us, O God, that when you ask us to follow, you mean *now*, imperfect as we may be. Perhaps we are never truly "ready" to get the call; it is the call that makes us ready. Encourage us to reach out to one another, to follow you hand-in-hand, lifting each other up all the way. We pray to your example, 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

Call to Worship

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

One: It is by grace that we are who we are:

Many: People who are called by Jesus, yet afraid to follow.

One: It is by God's grace that we can become followers:

Many: People who are fearful, yet gifted with courage beyond wonder.

One: It is with God's grace that we become who we might be:

Many: People who step out in faith, sharing the good news generously.

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!’

Luke 5:1-11

¹ Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore.

Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ ⁵ Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’ ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.

⁷ So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’

¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Reflection

Meditation for 5th Sunday After Epiphany

“Serving Together”

Some weeks it is very challenging to discern where to focus as I prepare my meditation. This week we have two striking passages, one from the prophet Isaiah and the other from the Gospel of Luke. They are paired together in the Lectionary because they are both considered to be “Call Stories.” In the first, Isaiah was called by God to go and share God’s word with the people. It is a remarkable passage full of fantastical images: God’s presence, whose robe filled the Temple, flying symbolic creatures with six wings, burning incense, and fiery coals. It is a passage full of sights, sounds, and smells. A powerful passage indeed.

Then there is our Gospel lesson. Although not filled with fantastical creatures, it is equally full of activity. Jesus came to a crowd of people gathered on the shore with probably as many people in boats on the water. There was a great deal of activity - people jostling to hear Jesus and those fishing coming back to shore at the end of a long hard night of work. I suspect for many of us these days, the person that catches our attention is Simon Peter. He had worked all night and was exhausted! He came to shore ready to rest when Jesus asked him to take his boat out once again. Although he initially protested, he did what Jesus asked.

As we continue to move through these challenging times of COVID, how many of us can relate to poor Simon Peter? We want to respond to the call of Jesus but we are worn out and exhausted. Perhaps we are the teacher fatigued by all the changes to our profession or the student tired of trying to learn online. Maybe we are the health care worker, the chaplain, or first responder completely worn down by service in our over-taxed health care system. We may be that worker feeling isolated and lonely because we work at home all day. I know as a pastor I have struggled with mental and physical exhaustion as I have had

to re-imagine ministry in these unwarranted times. So often our sense of exhaustion is compounded by a sense that we are dealing with all this alone. Although we know that people all around the world are struggling, it often feels that our personal struggles are ours alone.

But, I noticed something in our passage I had not noticed before. The author tells about following Jesus’ instructions: “When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled **their partners** in the other boat to come and help them.” Simon Peter and those in his boat did not have to do it alone. Together with **their partners**, they were able to haul in this enormous catch.

How often would our sense of exhaustion be lessened if we reached out to our partners, our friends, family, colleagues, and fellow parishioners? One example of sharing the load with our partners is our Regional Ministry to Afghan refugees. The DOC congregations in Lincoln have come together to serve those coming to our community as refugees. As a partnership, we are working together in mission and ministry. Members from our congregation are part of a task force that will guide us together in this ministry that would be overwhelming for any of us alone. There is much work that needs to be done but, we can do it because we are working together, just as those early fishermen did. We, like Simon Peter, can do this because Jesus stands in our midst and guides us. We can do this because we are called to work together.

In these challenging and often exhausting times may we find new strength to love and serve because Jesus guides us and empowers us. We can love and serve because we do not do it alone.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

February 6, 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*
- Diane Effle, *prayers for healing from heart issues and help recovering from her broken pelvis, mother of Doug Effle*

Friends:

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

- Bellevue Christian Church and Rev. Michael Lincoln

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Karen Campbell-Nelson serving in Indonesia

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



Song of the Week

Will You Come and Follow Me?

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

Music: Scottish melody

“Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown;
will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch
and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

