



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 13, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: Blessed are those who trust - in God!

Many: We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.

One: Blessed are those who hope - in God!

Many: We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.

One: Blessed are those who delight - in God's Word!

Many: We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.

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 our God, these days it is hard to know what to think or how to feel. Our lives are filled with so many voices, all saying different things, all at the same time. It is easy to let all the negativity get to us until we feel dejected. But God, when you sent us Jesus, you were really sending us a solution to this problem. He is the perfect example of how to focus on the positive and be a positive influence on other people's lives. Lord, rather than waiting around for things to change, fill us with your Spirit to be the change we want to see. We were created in your image to be a blessing to this creation you graciously give us. Thanks be to you, Lord our God, for all that you have made!

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

Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the LORD:
Cursed are those who trust in
mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from
the LORD.
⁶ They shall be like a shrub in
the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of
the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.
⁷ Blessed are those who trust in
the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.
⁸ They shall be like a tree planted
by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is
not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.
⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood
on a level place, with a great crowd of his
disciples and a great multitude of people
from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of
Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear
him and to be healed of their diseases; and
those who were troubled with unclean
spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd
were trying to touch him, for power came
out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and
said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ ‘Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

‘Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² ‘Blessed are you when people hate
you, and when they exclude you, revile you,
and defame you on account of the Son of
Man.

²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy,
for surely your reward is great in heaven;
for that is what their ancestors did to the
prophets.

²⁴ ‘But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ ‘Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

‘Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ ‘Woe to you when all speak well of
you, for that is what their ancestors did to
the false prophets.

Reflection

Meditation for 6th Sunday After Epiphany

“Have a Blessed Day!”

One hears it more often these days: “have a blessed day.” More people seem to use this greeting, perhaps as a response to the greater need people have to feel cared for and affirmed. There seems to be so much negativity spinning all around us and many of us yearn to hear something positive. Both of our scripture lessons today invite us to ponder the power of words. Words can be used to bless or curse. It is interesting to note that the prophet began with statements of woe and then moved to blessings. Jesus, on the other hand, began with blessing and then moved to describe those who are cursed. Since it seems that in the world today we often hear the curse before the blessing, I believe the order in which Jesus presented them can be more powerful. Although the context in which the prophet spoke merited beginning in the way he did, our context today invites us to begin with blessing.

When Jesus used the term “blessed,” what did he mean? While some translations render this word as “happy,” to be blessed is so much more. While it is tempting to believe that our external circumstance dictate our sense of blessedness, it is really about our internal state. To have a sense of blessedness begins with an awareness of being in relationship with God and with one another. Blessedness is, at heart, the awareness that we are not totally alone. Although we may feel alone and lonely at times, being blessed helps us celebrate our connections with others.

In our passage from Luke, the author reminds us that this sense of connection and blessedness does not affirm the values of the world. Quite the opposite! Jesus told those listening to him at the time, and us listening today, that the blessed were not the rich, those with all they need, those who laugh, or those deemed as blessed by our culture. Jesus shared the Good News that in God’s view the blessed

were those who seemed cursed by outward appearance. The truly blessed are the poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the rejected.

Jesus wanted to emphasize that God’s reign is about justice. We are all called to recognize and provide for the poor. We are called to feed the hungry. We are invited to be present with those who weep, and we are called to reach out to the rejected. We do this in so many ways. Many of us strive to participate in the ministry of Rev. William Barber and the Poor People’s Campaign which works for justice for all those in need. We also do this as we work together to help refugees resettle in our community. We bless those who weep or feel rejected through the ministry of our Elders. We strive to bring blessings to those yearning for it.

The beauty of scripture is that we are invited to live out the Good News in so many ways. Our passage from Luke today also calls us to see ourselves differently. We may hesitate to admit it, but in a way, we are the poor and the hungry. Sometimes literally and at times figuratively. We may not always be aware of it, but we hunger for God. Sometimes we struggle and weep. As Christians we are often rejected.

Our message today from the Gospel invites us to both have a blessed day and be a blessing for others. We do so as we celebrate the richness of God’s presence and as we are filled and fed by God. Sometimes we are blessed and a blessing as we weep together and share laughter. Although we may feel rejected by the world and others, we are accepted by God. So, have a blessed day and be a blessing to others!

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

February 13, 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*
- 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 Cec Burkhardt*
- Jim Bottolfsen, *for stage 3 lung cancer, friend of the Vocaseks*
- Carson Mousel, *grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer*
- Jamin and Hailey, *for the safe delivery of their baby girl, from Tony Flack*
- The Norfolk Regional Center, *for multiple diagnoses of COVID-19*
- Dr. Bob Kunz, *prayers for peace and healing from pancreatic cancer*

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:

- Bethany Christian Church and Rev. Daryl Lauber

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Erinn Miller serving in the United Kingdom

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Words: German hymn, 1800

Music: Joseph Barnby, 1868

When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!