



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 27, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: From a cloud and in a crowd, God speaks to us.

Many: Calling us to be lovers of justice, to share hope with the broken.

One: On mountaintops and in our neighborhoods, Christ calls to us.

Many: With a word and with wonder, molding us into who we are.

One: On the playground and in the workstation, the Spirit whispers in our hearts.

Many: Gathering up our fears, as well as our dreams, and offering them to God.

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

God of love and care, open our hearts to hear your voice calling to us over the noise of our lives. Give us the courage to lean into your message, to not stick our fingers in our ears and act like we can't hear you. You have given us the wonders of creation, signs of your everlasting love, and your Son, Jesus, as the model of how to live in right relationship with you and one another. You have made yourself known! God, we pray now for humility and vulnerability to *listen* to you. We pray that your Spirit softens our pride and allows us to shape our lives in ways that fulfill your will for us. Open our hearts and our ears, we pray. 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 99

¹ The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

² The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

³ Let them praise your great and awesome name.

Holy is he!

⁴ Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵ Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool.
Holy is he!

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

they kept his decrees,
and the statutes that he gave them.

Luke 9:28-36

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Reflection

Meditation for 8th Sunday After Epiphany

“Listen to Him!”

by Pastor Kelly Tyrrell

How many of us, at one point in our lives, have found ourselves yelling, “Would you just listen to me?” “You’re not listening to me!” Or my favorite from Chris Tucker in Rush Hour, “Do you hear the words that are coming out of my mouth?” We do it to our kids, our co-workers, and our spouses, but why? Everyone wants to be heard. Being heard is essential to our identity, our feelings of value, worth, and validation. Listening to truly understand the person speaking, not to respond, is one of the most primary ways we can recognize the dignity of others.

The part of our scripture that jumped out at me was verse 35, “Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!’” Upon reading this verse, my mind instantly went back to the other crucial time God interjects: Jesus’s baptism. In January, we read from Luke 3, where in verse 22 “A voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’”

I imagine in our scripture today a frustrated and fed up God saying, “Seriously? I told you he was my Son. And you didn’t listen. LISTEN to him!” God thought they had made themselves clear that Jesus was the Emmanuel, the manifestation of God’s will on earth, the living example of how to bring the kingdom come. Did God actually have to tell us to listen to Jesus? Wasn’t that implied? And not only implied, but owed?

The author Emma Justes connects listening to Christian hospitality. In her book *Hearing Beyond the Words: How to Become a Listening Pastor*, she starts with hospitality as the foundation of all good listening. Justes identifies four core qualities of Christian hospitality: vulnerability in offering hospitality to strangers; humility to fulfill someone’s needs without bragging or boasting; thoughtful availability, or being ready to serve and anticipate the needs of our guest; and reciprocity, or the importance of receiving unexpected gifts from our guest with grace. We know in Scripture hospitality is expected of us, radical hospitality, for stranger and neighbor alike. Could listening be expected of us in the same way? Have we ever expressed hospitality like this? Have we listened to someone like this? When I read Justes’s work, I came away feeling like maybe listening is an act of obedience to God.

To give us a model of what “good” listening might look like, I want to borrow from the wisdom of Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministry is a program to empower the laity of churches to offer spiritual caregiving to people in need. Here are some of the ways Stephen Ministers are trained to listen well:

1. Listening happens best when we find a quiet place to have our conversation, limiting distractions.
2. Listening is a verb: it is active and requires personal involvement and being fully present.
3. The good listener allows for holy silence.
4. Listening requires more than hearing the words, body language is important. Listening for what goes unsaid can be just as important to understanding as what is said.
5. Listening can hasten understanding best when the listener asks gentle yet probing questions.

How well do we listen to this passage? How do we, as contemporary Christians, hear the Scriptures? First, do we create a quiet space for ourselves when we engage with this story? Are we fully present when we hear this story? When we read the Scripture, were we picturing the story in our minds? Holy silence is a little trickier, but do we allow time without words to calm our minds? What about the non-verbal clues in our Scriptures? Like Peter, do we overlook the obvious, physical, visible signs in our stories; or do we try to read between the lines as we listen? What questions do we ask of ourselves, of God, when we encounter a story like the Transfiguration?

Focusing on the *how* of listening applies to all parts of our lives: in our relationships, our prayer life, our engagement with Scripture. In life, you will encounter all kinds of messages from all kinds of people, some that you’ll happily entertain and others that make you cringe. But we still have to listen. Listening is the primary way that we recognize the dignity of other people. Listening is akin to Christian hospitality. Listening is our way of showing humility and vulnerability to both strangers and neighbors. Listening is an act of obedience to God. “Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!’”

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

February 27, 2022

In Our Church Family:

- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Kindra Foster
- Our sympathy to the Effle family, upon the passing of Doug's mother Dianne
- 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
- Annie DeLosSantos, with liver cancer diagnosis, sister of Vince Ortega

Friends:

- Our sympathy for the family and friends of Tallu Schuyler Quinn, former Kamp Kaleo Peace Intern and founder of the The Nashville Food Project; Tallu passed away on Feb. 17 after a nearly 2 year battle with glioblastoma
- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart
- 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
- Dr. Bob Kunz, prayers for healing after surgery for 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:

- Edenton Christian Church and Rev. Christy Ahmose

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Angelica Santiago-Gonzales serving in Chile

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867

Music: Welsh folk melody

Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
in light inaccessible
hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious,
thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging,
and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting,
thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains
high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains
of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest,
to both great and small.
In all life thou livest,
the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish
like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish;
but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory;
thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee,
all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render;
O help us to see
'tis only the splendor
of light hideth thee!