



# First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

## Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

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**Week of March 6, 2022**



## Call to Worship

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

One: Led by the Holy Spirit, we come to this place.

Many: God has given us this haven where we may bring our hopes, our fears, our doubts, our wonder.

One: Led by the Holy Spirit, we will gather at the Table.

Many: Jesus has come to be with us, to feed us with grace and peace.

One: Led by the Holy Spirit, we will go to serve God's people.

Many: There is no distinction between 'us' and 'them,' we are siblings in God's family.

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.

## Prayer of Confession

God of our ancestors, we confess our attempts to play God as we manage things for our advantage. We rely on our own wit and wisdom instead of seeking spiritual depths. We imagine that our hungers can be satisfied by bread alone. Forgive us, God, for the chasms we create, cutting us off from our siblings and from you. Save us from ourselves, we pray. Amen.

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Check out our weekly video at [www.fcclincoln.org](http://www.fcclincoln.org), First Christian's Facebook page, or search for First Christian Church, Lincoln, Nebraska on YouTube.

[www.fcclincoln.org/youtube](http://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](http://fcclincoln.org) website to make an online donation via PayPal.

# Scripture Reading

## *Deuteronomy 26:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’ <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

## *Luke 4:1-13*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.’ <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone.”’

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, ‘To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’ <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him,

‘It is written,  
“Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.”’

<sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you”, <sup>11</sup>and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

# Reflection

## *Meditation for the 1st Sunday in Lent*

### “Beginning Our Lenten Journey”

I love the famous quote from Oscar Wilde “I can resist anything except temptation.” As we begin Lent, we start with the formative passage for this season. Lent is patterned off Jesus’ time in the wilderness. The length of the season, 40 days, is taken directly from this story in Jesus’ life. Our daily Lenten devotional *Gifts of the Spiritual Wilderness* by J. Dana Trent invites us deeper into this wilderness journey with Jesus. In her reflections for the 9<sup>th</sup> day of Lent, she explored our Gospel lesson for today. She reminds the reader “Jesus, as our model, is tempted by the Adversary when in his most vulnerable state: he’s alone, isolated, famished and weak.” Had the Adversary come to him on an ordinary day the temptations would not have been tempting.

While Jesus accepted the lead of the Holy Spirit and willingly entered the wilderness, the temptations that came his way were not necessarily of his choosing. Often, when we find ourselves in the wilderness, we may have accepted this part of our journey, but that does not mean we like it. We may also find that we have little choice over what happens to us in this time. I suspect that many, if not most, of us feel as though we are in a protracted time in the wilderness. Whether it’s the wilderness of COVID, the realities of war in other parts of the world, the challenges of economic struggles, or the many difficulties we face as individuals and families, wilderness seems to be a very present reality these days.

Trent hastens to remind us readers that there are spiritual gifts to be found in the wilderness. This is not intended to minimize the struggles and challenges that arise. In fact, as she says, when we read on and ponder this version of Jesus’ story, we are reminded of how very difficult it was for him. With Jesus as our model, we are reminded that God’s ongoing presence and comfort are with us in these difficult times. Although we may feel like Jesus, isolated and alone, we are not, because God is with us.

In her reflections for *Presbyterian Outlook*, Rev. Barbara Chaapel, a retired staff member from my Alma Mater, Princeton Theological Seminary, reminds us that our text today invites us into even deeper reflection and to perceive these temptations in very personal ways. But we are also invited to consider that this story is more than a tale of temptation. Chaapel goes on: “Yet for Jesus, they were

really temptations about how he would carry out his vocation, how he would live out his identity, how he would use and understand his power, and what the power of God is like.” The context of our passage makes this even clearer. The journey in the wilderness came after his baptism and before the inauguration of his public ministry. Jesus’ baptism and journey in the wilderness lay the foundation for his sense of call and the growing awareness of his true identity as the Son of God. The focus is not on the reality that Jesus is God’s Son, but on how he lives that out. The implications of this story for us are that we, too, should consider our call as God’s Disciples and focus on how we live that out that calling both as individuals and as a congregation. As individuals we all live our call in different ways, through our vocations and avocations. Our Lenten study *The Power of Significance* will be one way to explore our calling and how we live it out.

As Chaapel reminds us, we are called as congregations, too. How do we live out our calling here at FCC? One way is through our participation in refugee resettlement. This is shaped by our identity as a welcoming and hospitable congregation. We lived out our vocation as we welcomed people to our Ash Wednesday soup supper and worship service. We lived out our calling as we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Rae-Hope. We will be invited to contemplate more clearly our identity and our calling as we prepare for our Pastoral and Congregational Sabbatical next year.

Although we often do not choose the wilderness through which we journey, we can choose to be open to the gifts that come from that experience. It is in our vulnerability that we learn and grow. But, we do not do this alone. Like Jesus, we are led and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Not only do we have God’s ongoing presence and comfort, we have the presence, comfort, and encouragement of one another.

AMEN



# Prayers & Praises

## March 6, 2022

### In Our Church Family:

- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- 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 Burkhardt
- Carson Mousel, grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer
- Dr. Bob Kunz, prayers for healing after second surgery for pancreatic cancer

### Our Timothys:

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

### In the Nebraska Region:

- CrossBridge Christian Church and Rev. Robert Fugarino

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Abigail Reed serving in Korea

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



# Song of the Week

## Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

Words: Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873

Music: Day's Psalter, 1562

Lord, who throughout these forty days  
for us did fast and pray,  
teach us with you to mourn our sins  
and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend  
and did the victory win,  
O give us strength to persevere,  
in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence,  
and through this Passiontide,  
yes, evermore, in life and death,  
O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life  
of suffering shall be past,  
an Easter of unending joy  
we may attain at last.

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## Lenten Book Study

*The Power of Significance* by John C. Maxwell

### March 9 Session 1

Write Your Own Significance Story

### March 16 Session 2

Find Your Why to Find Your Way

### March 23 Session 3

Embrace Intentional Living

### March 30 Session 4

Be Willing to Start Small

### April 6 Session 5

Live with a Sense of Anticipation

### Holy Week

No Wednesday Night fellowship

### April 20 Session 6

Seize Significance Opportunities Every Day