



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

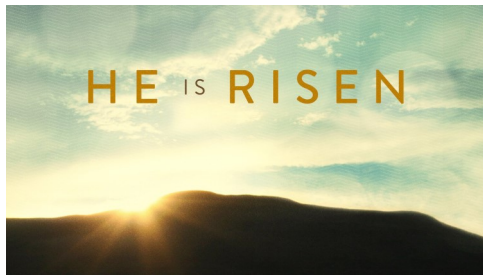
Weekly Worship

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

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Week of April 17, 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

God of the living, we give you thanks for this idle tale told by the earliest witnesses of your resurrection. Help us remember your promises that new life springs forth even in the empty places in our lives and in our world. We rejoice on this Easter Sunday and we shout with joy “The Lord is risen, he is risen indeed!” 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: Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Many: Christ is risen!

One: Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen!

One: Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia!



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

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

Luke 24:1-12

²⁴But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Reflection

Meditation for the Easter Sunday

"An Idle Tale"

In one of the earlier episodes of *Star trek: The Next Generation* the android Data had become known for his tendency to provide more information than was desired. At one point as Data provided a lengthy response to Captain Picard the Captain exclaimed "Data, quit babbling!" Data basically responded that while the way in which he chose to organize information may not make sense to others, he never experienced himself as "babbling." In our Gospel lesson from Luke the women who have just returned from the empty tomb were basically accused of "babbling." The story they told did not make sense to the other Disciples so the author said "But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them." The implication of the Greek was that the story the women shared was "nonsense or empty talk." In fact, there was the sense that this story was the babbling of someone completely out of touch with reality. They came to the Disciples with a story that, I suspect, they could hardly believe themselves. These women were chided and criticized by the men they met at the tomb and by the other Disciples. Although the beings at the tomb, whether men or angels, chided them they left the tomb believing in what others would call an "idle tale."

There are those today who would chide us as well for believing in this fanciful and idle tale. Many of us accepted as truth this tale told by these women long ago. This

story has become such a part of our worldview and culture. Even those who do not believe in it cannot deny the effect this tale has had on the world. I suspect this makes it even more challenging for us today to recognize what a truly amazing event this was. For these first witnesses the tale prophesied by Jesus before his death still seemed unimaginable. The women faithfully went to the tomb to lovingly care for the body of their teacher and friend. They did not expect to find an empty tomb that no longer contained the body that had been placed in it a couple days earlier. However, it turns out that this empty tomb and their seemingly empty words are all filled with the glory of God.

The empty tomb revealed the fullness of God's glory and the fulfillment of God's promises. This empty tomb revealed the truth that Jesus had been raised from the dead and could now be found among the living. The seemingly empty words of the woman also conveyed the fulfillment of God's promises to raise Jesus from the dead to new life. While it may be a familiar story to us, it truly continues to be an amazing one. The empty tomb and an idle tale tell it all. Even, and especially, in the empty places in our lives we are reminded that this idle tale is still true for us today. Jesus does not dwell with the dead, he is alive. Not such an idle tale after all.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

April 17, 2022

In Our Church Family:

- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Our sympathy to the family of Arlene Heimer, upon her recent passing
- Harold & Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Jessica Vocasek
- Lois Frogge
- Joan Dietrich

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
- Our sympathy to the family of Alice Stehlik, upon her recent passing, grandmother of Jessica Vocasek

Friends:

- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart
- 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:

- Falls City First Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Maria Abigail Hernandez serving in Japan

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



Song of the Week

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Words: Lyra Davidica, 1708 & Charles Wesley, 1740

Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Lenten Book Study

The Power of Significance by John C. Maxwell

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

