



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 24, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: Alleluia! Praise God in the holy temple.

Many: Give praise in the firmament of heaven.

One: Praise God who is mighty in deed.

Many: Give praise for God's excellent greatness.

One: Let Everything that has breath praise the Lord.

All: Alleluia!

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

Holy God, Immanuel, we give you thanks that you are with us and that you give us the words to pray. Sometimes the words come easily and sometimes they don't, but you always know what is in our hearts. Help us trust in you as the foundation of our house of faith and as the giver of our words about you.

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 118:19-26

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of
righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter
through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have
answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders
rejected
has become the chief
cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has
made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you,
O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us
success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in
the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of
the LORD.

Matthew 7:24-29

²⁴ 'Everyone then who hears
these words of mine and acts
on them will be like a wise
man who built his house on
rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the
floods came, and the winds
blew and beat on that house,
but it did not fall, because it
had been founded on
rock. ²⁶And everyone who
hears these words of mine
and does not act on them
will be like a foolish man
who built his house on
sand. ²⁷The rain fell, and the
floods came, and the winds
blew and beat against that
house, and it fell—and great
was its fall!'

²⁸ Now when Jesus had
finished saying these things,
the crowds were astounded
at his teaching, ²⁹for he
taught them as one having
authority

Reflection

Meditation for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

“Building a House of Faith”

“And Jesus said unto the theologians, ‘Who do you say that I am?’ They replied, ‘You are the eschatological manifestation of the ground of our being, the kerygma of which we find the ultimate meaning in our interpersonal relationships.’ And Jesus said, ‘What?’” Welcome to Seminary; schools across the world creating a new generation of theologians using words even Jesus wouldn’t understand. I am graduating in less than a month, and I still don’t get all the \$50 words they use here. But what am I doing in Seminary if I can’t turn my education into something meaningful for you? My goal is to help you encounter God for yourself. I want to empower you to become a theologian just like the smarty-pants at my school.

Theology is the study of God, and by study, I mean “the devotion of time and attention to acquiring knowledge” about God. Think about all the ways in which you are already doing this. You are already a theologian, even if you don’t know it yet. But in our Christian tradition, we don’t only think about God. God is only the beginning. We think about our neighbors and friends being made in the image of God, and we think about Jesus.

We probably think about Jesus as the Christ just as much as we do about God, maybe even more, especially at this time of year! Then thinking about Jesus leads us to think about the disciples and ourselves as followers of his way. To make following a little easier, we create groups, called the church, where we strive to live out Jesus’s mission for us in our own time and place. When we think about church, I ask, doesn’t a church feel much better when it’s inspired? Filled with the Spirit? So, how do we feel about the Holy Spirit? Does the Holy Spirit rush in like a mighty wind? Glide over us like a gentle dove?

Our study of God is connected to so many more thoughts about our faith. It’s like a chain or one of those brainstorming webs. You could say it’s like constructing a house. Our House of Faith is built floor by floor until you have “constructed” a theology. It’s really this simple. (Don’t tell the Seminary!) We are thinking about different elements of God and faith in a way that creates a cohesive thought pattern. Thinking about religious ideas in this linked way is helpful to discern what you truly believe or don’t, what is essential to your faith, and what is just window dressing.

When I created my personal theology for school, my House of Faith, I called it a “Theology of Emmanuel” or “God with Us.” God’s love for us and relationship with us is the core of who God is. So, when we say that we are made in the image of God, I would say we are made to love and be in relationship with one another. But, as we all know, sometimes these connections get broken, or we are so self-righteous, we refuse to be in relationship at all. To fix this, we need a Jesus to empower us to live authentic lives. We need a Jesus who has walked in our shoes, understands our pain, and stands beside us in our suffering.

As followers of Jesus, this means we need to stand by one another as well. When we join together in churches, we must love our neighbors and care for their needs. Churches shouldn’t just be “about” Jesus, they should be “of” Jesus, carrying his mission forward into the world.

But you know, that’s just me. It’s a little pie-in-the-sky, but this kind of thinking about God feels true to my soul. What feels true to you? When it comes to having faith in our risen Lord, only you can decide what you believe. Only you can build your House of Faith. Continue to think about God.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

April 24, 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:

- Grand Island First Christian Church and Rev. Julie Western

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Elena Huegel serving in Mexico

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



Song of the Week

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Text: Brian Wren, 1984

Music Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824

adapt. Edward Hodges 1842

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!

Adult Study

April 27

Lives of Great Christians

May 4

Lives of Great Christians

April 11

Lives of Great Christians

April 18

Pizza and Games for youth and adults

