



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 May 8th, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: We gather in presence of God

Many: Where grieving people and children with skinned knees have their tears wiped away.

One: We gather with the people of God

Many: Who worship the One who provides what we need, not just what we want.

One: We gather around the Font and Table of God

All: Where God feeds us with grace and wonder, where God pours the living water upon us.

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, we give you thanks for all the stories that fill our lives. We are grateful for all the stories in holy scripture that tell us of your love and presence. It is such a joy to see ourselves in all those tales, even the most ancient. Help us remember that you are the author of all our stories and that you remain present through them all.

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

Exodus 1:15-22

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’ ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, ‘Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?’ ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, ‘Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.’

Exodus 2:1-10

²Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. ‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,’ she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’ ⁸Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Yes.’ So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ‘because’, she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’

Reflection

Meditation for the 4th Sunday of Easter

“The Mothers of Israel”

I'd like to share with you a class I've enjoyed so much in seminary. Every degree program at the seminary requires an introduction to both Hebrew Bible and New Testament. Then we take more in-depth classes in both Hebrew Bible and New Testament, called exegesis classes, where we dissect different topics and texts to unearth the timeless lessons that continue to teach us today how to be God's people. It just so happened that I was ready to take Hebrew Bible exegesis when the Rev. Dr. Lisa Davison was offering “Women of the Hebrew Bible,” which focused on stories that frankly don't get attention very often. Today on Mother's Day, I'd like to share some of these stories with you, sassy, stubborn women, mothers, sisters, wives, warriors, all co-creators of the nation of Israel, and still moving our story forward today.

Our text today is a well-known story about the birth of Moses. A boy who should never have been born, cared for by the daughter of Pharaoh against her father's wishes, Moses is a man whom God chooses to change the course of history. This is where we'll start the message today, but from here we are going to learn about more women, also chosen by God, to move the story forward for the Israelite people, and ultimately for us today.

Moses is great, right? Much of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the bible, are full of Moses's actions and teachings. From freeing the Israelites from bondage, parting the Sea of Reeds, to his amazing sermons in the book of Deuteronomy, Moses is the guy. But let's be honest, he had some help getting to the plains of Moab. Like, a lot of help. Moses was aided and guided by rebellious women in every phase of his life. From the scripture today, we learn that in infancy, Moses relied on the midwives Shiphrah and Puah to defy Pharaoh and let him live. The trick they play on Pharaoh by telling him that the Hebrew women just weren't like Egyptian women, and they had the

babies before the midwife showed up, it's crafty and subversive. It is with the actions of Shiphrah and Puah that the story of motherhood can even begin. Jochebed, Moses's mother, used her insight to keep her “illegal” child hidden. Her plan to send her son down the river is dangerous and courageous. Moses's birth mother makes the bold choice to send him away with the help of Miriam, Moses's sister, to watch over the baby in the reed basket as he went down the Nile. Pharaoh's daughter, in direct conflict with her father's wishes, cared for the child, even choosing Jochebed as his wet nurse. It was like a serendipitous open adoption. Pharaoh's daughter is a loving adoptive mother to Moses, raising this found child as her own. We know this through the status and position that Moses gains in Egypt that we learn about through the book of Exodus. So, we are at five rebellious women already, before Moses is even a man.

In his adult life, Moses married the daughter of a Midianite priest, Zipporah. While traveling through the wilderness, Moses and his family is attacked, and it is Zipporah who comes to the rescue. His wife utilized her quick wit and knowledge of God to save her family's life. Some scholars believe that, as the daughter of the Midianite priest Jethro, Zipporah may have been a priestess herself, so her knowledge of God was extensive. It was she who knew a circumcision must be performed and executes the rite for the family's safe passage. In Exodus God implements their plan for human relationships by using the actions of women. By mothers, sisters, even midwives, the story moves forward.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

May 8, 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

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 Timothy's:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Havelocke Christian Church and Rev. Rob Welch

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Nishan Bakalian serving in Lebanon

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: Dale Grotenhuis, 1986

My Shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is his name.

In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
beside the living stream.

He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of
death

your presence is my stay;
one word of your supporting breath
drives all my fears away.

Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my tables spread;
my cup with blessings overflows;
your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;

O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.

There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;

no more a stranger, or a guest,
but like a child at home.

Adult Study

May 4

Lives of Great Christians

May 11

Lives of Great Christians

May 18

Pizza and Games for youth and adults

