



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 15th, 2022



Call to Worship

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

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

Heavenly God, you are our Savior. When we struggle, we call to you and you answer us. Be with those who struggle with the adversity of mental illness, and be with them and hold them close to your heart. Let us all know that you are so near to us through your Spirit, and that when we realize you help at every step of the way and make a blessing out of any situation, let us go forth and love all of God's creation and praise you while doing it. In Jesus' name,

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

One: Let praise to God resound in the heavens!

Many: Let praise to God fill the earth!

One: Let all God's angels offer praise and rejoicing!

Many: Let all God's creatures sing praise and joy!

One: Open your hearts and spirits today.

Many: Let us praise the Lord today and always!

AMEN.

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

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;
 praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
 and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for he commanded and they were created.
He established them for ever and ever;
 he fixed their bounds, which cannot be
passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
 you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
 stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
 creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
 old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for his name alone is exalted;
 his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
 praise for all his faithful,
 for the people of Israel who are close to
him.
Praise the Lord!

John 13:31-35

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus
said, ‘Now the Son of Man has
been glorified, and God has been
glorified in him. ³²If God has been
glorified in him, God will also glo-
rify him in himself and will glorify
him at once. ³³Little children, I am
with you only a little longer. You
will look for me; and as I said to
the Jews so now I say to you,
“Where I am going, you cannot
come.” ³⁴I give you a new com-
mandment, that you love one an-
other. Just as I have loved you, you
also should love one another. ³⁵By
this everyone will know that you
are my disciples, if you have love
for one another.’

Reflection

Meditation for the 5th Sunday of Easter

“Blessings Amidst Mental Adversity”

Jesus, before he was betrayed and sent to the die on the cross, must have felt some kind of anxiety. We hear elsewhere in the Gospels that Jesus even asked God, if God could, to take away the cup of suffering.

Just like Jesus, we might face great anxiety. During the pandemic, mental illness worsened for many people. But there is good news in all of this: God is with us. God does not abandon us, nor forsake us. In fact, God turns all that we suffer into a blessing – in some fashion or another.

Let me tell you this: God is with us, no matter the circumstances, no matter the trials. God does not abandon us, nor forsake us. God did not even forsake Jesus in his time of trial, even when Jesus later felt alone on the cross. God truly will always be with us, and like Jesus, we might feel alone in some parts of our lives or another, but that does not change God’s love for us.

Considering Jesus’ context for the Gospel passage for today, Jesus foretells his betrayal by Judas, and then afterward, foretells Peter’s denial. But right in the middle of telling his disciples of what they’ll do to him, he tells him this weird thing: “Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” When Jesus is facing a great and terrible death with his friends abandoning and

betraying him, he turns to them and says, “love one another.” Love each other during this great time of trial, because you will need each other. Nobody can face any great trial alone – we need each other. And when we help one another, we can go forth from the Table of God with love at our side and praises coming from our lips, praising God for all that God has done, blessing us in all of our circumstance with each other. We cannot do it alone. This is why we are the Church: to edify, to love, to bear one another’s burdens, and to praise God for all they’ve done in the meantime. Let us go forth from the Table, to cherish and adore one another amidst our mental health adversities, and then to cherish and adore one another in our communities. We can do that, blessing one another with God at our side.

AMEN

FCC Social Media!



Each week FCC is posting new pictures and announcements. Look for First Christian Church on Instagram, Facebook, and You Tube for new content every week. Get connected!

Prayers & Praises

May 15, 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*

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Humboldt Christian Church, Rev. Howard Blecha

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Eleazar Fernandez serving in the Philippines

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



Song of the Week

Though I May Speak

Text: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

Music: English folk melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1972

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.



Adult Study

May 4

Lives of Great Christians

May 11

Lives of Great Christians

May 18

Pizza and Games for youth and adults

