



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

Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, Pastor

Ethan Cai, Administrative Assistant

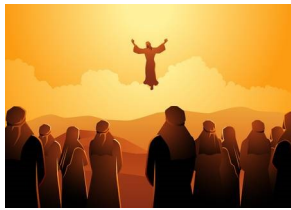
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader

www.fcclincoln.org

info@fcclincoln.org

Week of May 29th, 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 this place, some empty, some filled, some whole, some broken:

Many: Yearning for the Holy Spirit to fill us.

One: We come with this ordinary people, who have shown us the way:

Many: Trusting the God will continue to illumine our hearts.

One: We surround the Table of grace, so that we might be fed by the Bread of life:

Many: That graced, we may serve others; that healed, we may bring hope to the world.

AMEN.

Community Prayer

Holy God, we gather together in your Spirit to celebrate the risen and ascended Christ. Be with us now as we mark the end of Jesus' earthly life and the beginning of our new life in Christ. Like the Disciples of the early Church, you call us to embody the mission and ministry of Christ.

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

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Acts 1:1-11

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ ⁷He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

Reflection

Meditation for the Ascension Sunday

“A Fitting End and a New Beginning”

As Protestants, and particularly as Disciples of Christ, we don't talk about the Ascension very often. Perhaps that's because it was so rarely talked about in the scripture, our two passages today are basically the only descriptions of the event. As those who place scripture at the heart of our faith this presents a challenge. However, I suspect there may be more to it than that. As modern people in the 21st century we do not really know what to do with this concept. Belief in a bodily resurrection seems challenging enough and now we have to deal with a bodily ascension too! To begin, it is striking that the story of the Ascension was told by the author of Luke and Acts. It is a bit deceiving the way our Bibles are set up with the book of John between Luke and Acts because scholars agree that Acts was written by the same author as Luke and intended as a continuation of the Lukan narrative. If one looks at it that way we notice that Luke ends the Gospel with the ascension of Jesus and Acts begins with the same story told in a little different way. For Luke, the ascension is a fitting end to the Gospel. How else could the story of Jesus really end? Just before the passage read for today, Jesus had made several appearances to the Disciples and had eaten with them to prove his bodily resurrection. Although with them in bodily form, Jesus could no longer be constrained by a physical body. The ascension demonstrated that Jesus would no longer be bound in a specific time and space. The author also wanted to set the stage for the arrival of another expression of God, the Holy Spirit. The author of Luke brought this part of the story to a close, the story of the incarnate expression of God was ending and so the ascension is a “fitting end to the story.” The author also wanted to emphasize that the story of Jesus now becomes the Disciples' story. The mission and ministry of Jesus now becomes their mission and ministry.

Now as we move to the narrative in Acts, the author wanted to set the stage for “a new

beginning.” During Eastertide we read lessons from Acts as our “historical lesson.” Just as the Hebrew Scriptures recounted the history of God's people so the book of Acts recounted the birth of the Church. Jesus ascended to prepare the way for the arrival of the Holy Spirit which we will celebrate next Sunday as we mark the day of Pentecost. The Disciples are part of the transition, a new beginning, in which the mission and ministry of Jesus became theirs. Now that Jesus was no longer bound in time and space, they are now freed to continue his mission and ministry. As we witness this new beginning we are now invited to continue the mission and ministry of the early Disciples. We are the incarnate expression of the risen and ascended Christ.

Our embodiment of the mission and ministry of Christ and the early Disciples may not be as dramatic, but it is still critical. Here at FCC we embody this mission and ministry in a variety of ways. Each Sunday as we gather for worship we bear witness to the mission and ministry of Christ and the early Disciples. In the most recent Messenger we had several articles about how we embody the mission and ministry of Christ here at FCC. All those who serve the congregation on the Board, as an Elder or Deacon, or as a part of a ministry team embody the mission and ministry of Christ. Those across our Region and in our congregation who work with our Afghan family embody the mission and ministry of Christ. The FCC Foundation embodies the mission and ministry of Christ as they administer the resources given throughout the years. For all of us who will gather at the Super Saver for our Outreach project on June 11th, we will embody the mission and ministry of Christ. May God continue to empower us as we strive to follow the early Disciples as we embody the mission and ministry of the risen and ascended Christ.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

May 29, 2022

In Our Church Family:

- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Dick & Roxie Pickel
- 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:

- Iglesia Discipulos, and Rev. Daniel Zapata

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Rene Seidel serving in El Salvador

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



Song of the Week

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Text: William Chatterton Dix, 1866
Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone!
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of angels,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heaven your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

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!