



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

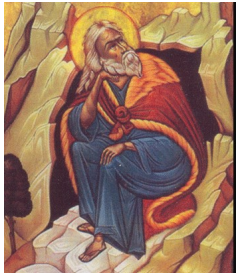
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Week of June 19th, 2022



Call to Worship

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

One: Praise the God of Elijah, who is steadfast and strong in the wilderness.

Many: Our hope is in God!

One: Praise the God of the lost, who is our rock and our help in times of need.

Many: Our help is in God!

One: Praise the God of Jesus Christ, who makes us children of the beloved.

Many: Our life is in Christ!

Community Prayer

O God of the silence, we give you thanks that you meet us where we are.

When we are depressed, weary and despairing remind us that you are with us. Help us open our hearts to you and fully share ourselves just as we are.

Empower us to be with one another in both the highs and lows of life.

AMEN

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

I Kings 19:1-15a

¹Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' ³Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' ⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. ⁹At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁰He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

¹¹He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁴He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.'

Galatians 3:23-29

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Reflection

Meditation for the Second Sunday after Pentecost

“Resting in God”

There are some stories in scripture that are so striking that they really stick with a person. For me, this passage in I Kings is one of them. It undoubtedly says a lot about me, the character I really resonate with is Elijah. We have seen him at the height of his career and now we see him at the absolute lowest point. Elijah had single-handedly confronted the false prophets of Baal. Not only did he prove them to be false prophets, he thoroughly defeated them and killed them all. This did not make him popular with the ruler Jezebel and she lashed out. She ordered that he be caught and killed. Hearing that there was a price on his head, Elijah fled. He fled deep into the wilderness and made his way to his spiritual home, Mount Horeb. Most of us know that place by a different name, Mount Sinai. Ring any bells? Elijah fled to the place where Moses experienced God directly. It was also the same place where God gave Moses the Torah, the Law which included the 10 Commandments.

What strikes me most about this story is the main character Elijah. Can't you just see him? Depressed, dejected and despairing he crashes in the shade of a tree and sleeps. Have you ever been that depressed? So depressed that all you wanted to do was sleep and be left alone? So depressed you did not even want to eat? On top of such deep depression he also felt dejected. All that he had done to serve God, to witness to God's power and presence, has come to naught. He was being sought by the powers of his day to be captured and executed for doing the very thing God had commanded him to do. I have been that depressed. You all know that's something serious when I don't even want to eat. I was serving as a chaplain in a large hospital and training other chaplains as well. I was doing what I thought God called me to do. I was serving in a way that enabled me to use my gifts for ministry. The darkness of depression came on slowly. My descent into despair was not as dramatic or swift as that of Elijah's. All I

wanted to do was sleep, and like Elijah, I wanted to drift into eternal sleep and die.

Thankfully, like Elijah, God did not leave me alone in my despair and depression. God sent angels to care for me in the guise of doctors and nurses who tended to me during my 3 week hospitalization. God also sent others, friends and colleagues, to nurture and tend to me in the long weeks, months and even years ahead. When I finally let go and admitted my struggle God also came to me in silence. I still remember the day vividly. I was riding the bus into work, looking at the beautiful azaleas in bloom, and letting my mind wander. Then I heard a clear voice in my head that said “you don't have to do this anymore.” I finally had the release I needed to move on. God prepared me for the next phase of my journey that would lead me back to the Midwest, to family and friends. Perhaps you have known a similar journey, for yourself or someone you love. Perhaps the story of Elijah resonates for you too.

The power of this story is that it can speak to us as individuals and as a community of faith. Like Elijah FCC has been through some amazing high points and some low ones too. We have struggled to remain constant throughout COVID, and as we come out on the other side we may wish to sleep under our own broom tree. We may feel depression and despair not only for ourselves but as part of a community that is ever changing. Our story, like Elijah's, does not end under the broom tree in the wilderness. God came to Elijah, first in the form of a ministering angel and later more directly. When we let go, as Elijah did, and embrace the silence God comes to us then.

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

June 19, 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
- Mark Carpenter, *with colon cancer, brother of Jill Carpenter and Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- 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:

- CCN Ministry Coordinators, Teresa Olberding, Paul Few, & Holly Gage

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Jeff Mensendiek serving in Japan

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



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!

Song of the Week

In Christ There Is No East or West

Text: John Oxenham, 1908

Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts
everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and
west;
in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.