



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. Kara Hillhouse, Interim Pastor
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries
Elaine Parman, Care Minister

Week of February 4, 2024
info@fcclincoln.org
www.fcclincoln.org



Community Prayer

Everlasting God, you give strength to the powerless and power to the faint; you raise up the sick and cast out demons. Make us agents of healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
copyright 2002 Consultation on Common Texts”

Call to Worship

One: When we look at the night sky, speckled with stars,

Many: we discover the never-ending imagination of our God.

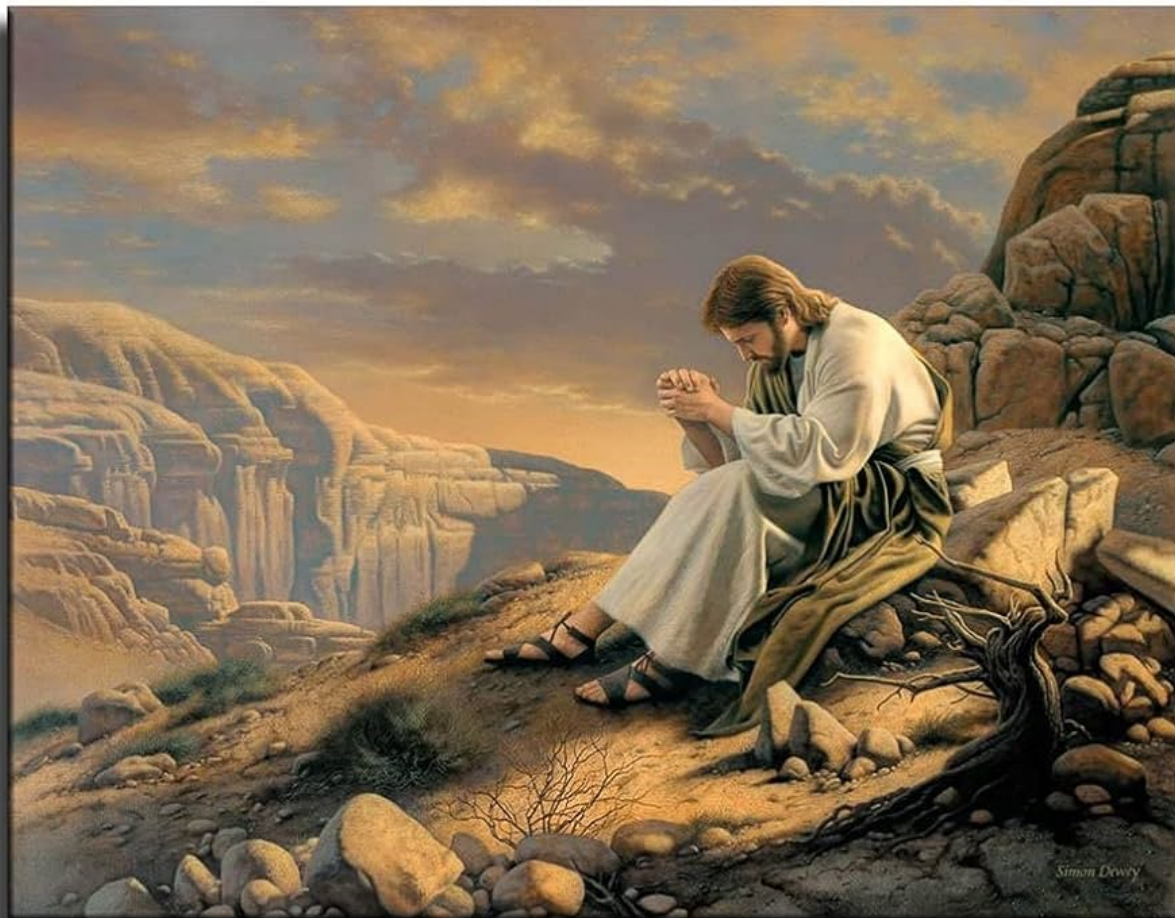
One: When we set aside the time for prayer, as well as wonder,

Many: we meet the Spirit who is at our side in every moment.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse
A Deserted Place

In a story that has it all--demons, healings, drama--there is one little sentence that kind of gets lost in the reading. It's Mark 1:35, "*In the morning while it was still very dark, [Jesus] got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.*" This is the second story in a row, in the gospel of Mark, where Jesus performs the miracles of casting out demons. Apparently it's rough work, as now Jesus finds himself heading to a deserted space (read: no people rushing at him to be healed) in order to pray. It's perhaps the most important thing we busy, harried, stressed-out people could hear: Jesus practiced self-care! Jesus stepped away from his jam-packed schedule in order to connect with God. People were pulling at him, hounding him, hunting him down, pleading with him...well, you get the idea. And yet, he took time to go away to a quiet place and refill his cup. We need to learn from this, don't we? We hope you'll join us for worship this Sunday, where we'll fill our own cups with the Word, music, fellowship and Communion. We'll see you Sunday!



Scripture Readings

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Praise the Lord!

How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground. Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre. He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills. He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry. His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner; but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances.

Praise the Lord!

Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Prayers & Praises February 4, 2024

In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Bobbi Carlin
- Mike Carlin
- Jim Christ
- William Deterding
- Joan Dietrich
- Sharon Hile
- Polly Putney
- Rae-Hope Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber

Friends:

- Jennie & Will Ernest and family. Tyler Goodrich, the young man missing since November 3rd is Jennie's brother.
- Tammy Foral, healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn.
- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt.

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Ashland First Christian Church and Bob Schofield

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mission Partners in Fiji

"Who were the demons that Jesus cast out of those he ministered to? Were the "demons" agents of evil that took hold of their hosts, like in a horror movie? Maybe society at the time judged "demonic" those whose appearance or behavior was due to any malady they did not understand or know how to treat? "

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit www.globalministries.org



Song of the week

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain:

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin - sick soul.*

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin - sick soul.*

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend, and if you lack for knowledge, he'll not refuse to lend.

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin - sick soul.*

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin - sick soul.*

