



**First Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

## Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

**Rev. Kara Hillhouse**, Interim Pastor  
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**Week of July 30th, 2023**



Public Worship will be held at 10:30 am Sunday morning.

### Community Prayer

Seed-planting, fish-netting, bread-baking, pearl-hunting God,  
you shape us into living parables.

Pray with your Spirit in us  
so that we may understand our experiences  
as healing metaphors,  
and become creative and abundant stewards  
of the environment you entrusted to our love.

**Amen.**

Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,  
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### Call to Worship

Feel free to follow along with our Call to  
Worship from the live-streamed worship  
service on Sunday.

**One:** On this day of worship, we call on God's  
name,

**Many:** and hear our own invitation to work  
for the good of all.

**One:** In this place of praise and prayer, we call  
on God's love,

**Many:** and receive that grace which is as old  
as creation, yet as fresh as each morning.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

“If God is For Us...”

I think many of us were raised with the notion that certain sins are greater than others. For example, stealing a piece of candy is not as serious as stealing a car; or lying isn't as bad as cheating. I think this notion that there's a "hierarchy of offenses" is wrong, first of all; and second, that it's been harmful. I feel it's caused some people to think, "this time I went too far. There's no way God will forgive me for \_\_\_ (fill in the blank)." One of my favorite liturgies from the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship is from the commendation at the end of funeral services (what we call "A Service of Witness to the Resurrection"). It says, "Into your hands, o merciful savior, we commend your servant. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming." The truth is we are all sinners--we ALL fall short. The other truth is that nothing...nothing...can separate us from God's love, including our sins. And boom! just like that, any hierarchy of sins is wiped away. We all fall short, thus we are equal in our position, but God is good and merciful. Romans 8 contains some of the most comforting words Paul writes. Join Pastor Kara as we explore the extent of God's grace. We'll see you in church!



# Scripture Reading

## Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

# Prayers & Praises

## July 30, 2023

# Song of the Week

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr. 2005

### In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Marvin Thurber
- Polly Putney
- William Deterding
- Lois Frogge
- Vic Burgess
- Joan Dietrich
- Jessica Vocasek
- Mildred Brockemeyer
- Relda Lathrop
- Karen Moritz
- Bobbi Carlin
- Rae-Hope Putney

- Nicole Lee, *prayers for strength, Mother of Leigh Lestina*
- Tito Vigan, *continue to gain mobility and strength as he recovers from a spinal stroke. Sara Mason's husband*

### Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess

### Friends:

- Tammy Foral, *healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt*
- 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:

- Omaha First Christian Church and Rev. Josh Sawyer

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Alex Maldonado serving in Colombia

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



Loaves were broken,  
words were spoken  
by the Galilean shore.  
Jesus, Bread of Life  
from heaven,  
was the food forevermore.

[Refrain]:  
By your body  
broken for us,  
by your wine  
of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people.  
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Loaves were broken,  
words were spoken  
in a quiet room one night.  
In the bread and wine  
you gave them, Christ,  
you came as Light from Light.

[Refrain]

Loaves are broken,  
words are spoken,  
as in faith we gather here.  
Jesus speaks across the ages:  
"I am with you, do not fear!"

[Refrain]

By the loaves you break  
and give us,  
send us in your  
name to share  
bread for which  
the millions hunger,  
words that tell your  
love and care.

[Refrain]

The Wired WORD

An Adult Curriculum