



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 April 7, 2024
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Community Prayer

Light of the world, shine upon us and disperse the clouds of our selfishness, that we may reflect the power of the resurrection in our life together. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: The Word of life spoke:

Many: so we could hear the ‘Alleluias!’ of the angels.

One: The Word of life walked out of death’s dread tomb:

Many: so we could follow him into life forever.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

The Gift of Thomas

When you think about it, in addition to the Resurrection being the greatest miracle of all time, Jesus' post-resurrection actions are a miracle as well. Here are his disciples, afraid and confused because of what they have heard about Jesus being alive again, after they knew without a doubt that he had been dead. And suddenly Jesus appears to them and says, "*Peace be with you.*" And they see and they understand and they believe! The fact that Jesus would even come to his disciples - the ones who had disappointed him, failed him, betrayed him before his crucifixion - well, that in itself is a miracle. The fact that Jesus was giving them another chance...that was love. In this week's text we find Thomas, doubting that Jesus has really risen from the dead. Thomas gets a bad rap, doesn't he? He gets labeled "the doubter." But really, Thomas is only asking for the same thing all the other disciples have received: seeing the resurrected Jesus in the flesh before they come to believe. People see doubt as a bad thing, but what if it's part of what we were created to do - question things? German Lutheran theologian Paul Tillich wrote, "*Doubt isn't the opposite of faith, it is an element of faith.*" Join us for worship this Sunday as we look at Jesus' first encounters with his disciples after his resurrection, and explore the idea of doubt. We'll see you Sunday!



Scripture Readings

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.



John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Prayers & Praises

April 7, 2024

In Our Church Family:

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

Please keep Ron & Sharon Hile and their family in your prayers. Sharon is now in Hospice.

Friends:

- Bob Johnson, a longtime family friend of the Vocasek family. Bob is battling terminal cancer .
- Tammy Foral, healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn.
- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart.

Our Timothy:

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

In the Nebraska Region: Elmwood Christian Church - Rev. Mark Sewell

Our Global Ministries Missionaries: Mission Partners in Lesotho

"Almighty Father, we humbly approach you, burdened for Lesotho as it marks its 200th anniversary. Guide leaders with a selfless dedication to the well-being of the Basotho people, fostering stability, eradicating poverty, and envisioning a Lesotho free from conflict."

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



Song of the week

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend. Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

*Sing to *HYMN TO JOY* tune

