



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 21, 2024
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Community Prayer

Shepherd of all, by laying down your life for your flock you reveal your love for all. Lead us from the place of death to the place of abundant life, that guided by your care for us, we may rightly offer our lives in love for you and our neighbors. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: In the presence of God, we gather:

Many: hoping for that touch which will refresh us; longing to be embraced in arms of love.

One: We look, and find a feast has been prepared for us:

Many: bread which will give us life anew; the cup which overflows with grace and hope.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Are You In or Out?

This week we have the story of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. As part of this story, Jesus says there are “other sheep” that do not belong to this fold, but they, too, listen to his voice and will be brought into the fold, and then they will be one flock and he will be their one, true shepherd. This causes us to ask the obvious question: who are the sheep inside the fold, and who are those on the outside of the fold? Have you ever given much thought to the theological implications of God having sheep outside “the fold” who belong to Him? What strikes me is that, more than anything, God isn’t done working yet. Despite all the healings Jesus performed, despite all of his preaching and teaching and parables, despite all of the “outsiders” he had already brought into the inner circle, God isn’t done yet. He still has more sheep to reach, sheep that are not in this fold, and we might just be surprised at who God welcomes in. We invite you to join us this Sunday as we ponder this story, and be fed by a time of worship, fellowship, music and the Lord’s Supper. We’ll see you Sunday!



Scripture Readings

Psalm 23

John 10:11-18

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my
soul.

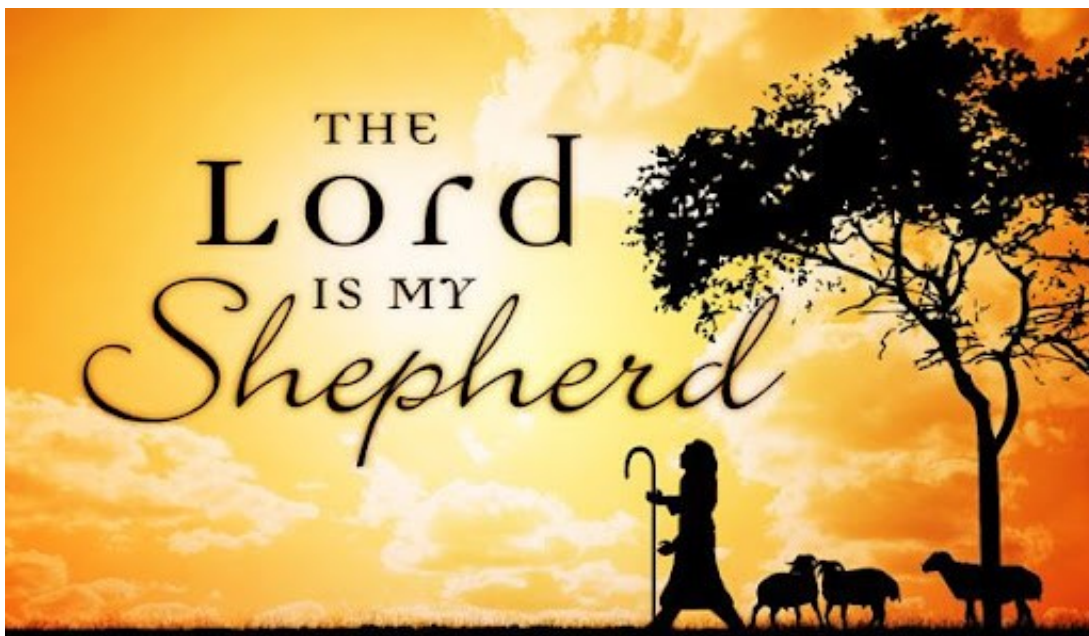
He leads me in right paths for his name's
sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest val-
ley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your
rod and your staff - they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence
of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the
house of the Lord my whole life long.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd
lays down his life for the sheep. The hired
hand, who is not the shepherd and does not
own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and
leaves the sheep and runs away - and the
wolf snatches them and scatters them. The
hired hand runs away because a hired hand
does not care for the sheep. I am the good
shepherd. I know my own and my own know
me, just as the Father knows me and I know
the Father. And I lay down my life for the
sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong
to this fold. I must bring them also, and they
will listen to my voice. So there will be one
flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Fa-
ther loves me, because I lay down my life in
order to take it up again. No one takes it
from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.
I have power to lay it down, and I have pow-
er to take it up again. I have received this
command from my Father.”



Prayers & Praises

April 21, 2024



Song of the week

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

My shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is his name. In pastures fresh
he makes me feed, beside the living
stream. He brings my wandering spirit
back when I forsake his ways, and leads
me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of
truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of
death your presence is my stay; one
word of your supporting breath drives
all my fears away. Your hand, in sight of
all my foes, does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows; your
oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend
me all my days; O may your house be
my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while
others go and come; no more a stranger,
or a guest, but like a child at home.



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
- Jessica Vocasek

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: Fairbury First Christian Church - Rev. Darlene Novotny

Our Global Ministries Missionaries: Mission Partners in Lebanon/Syria

"Today, we bring before you the Middle East, specifically Lebanon and Syria, where people continue to endure immense suffering. We pray for them and all those who serve them, especially the churches facing tremendous challenges. May your Holy Spirit empower us with divine life, and may we follow the example of our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, in alleviating pain, healing wounded souls, and guiding the lost back to the fold."

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

