



**First Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ

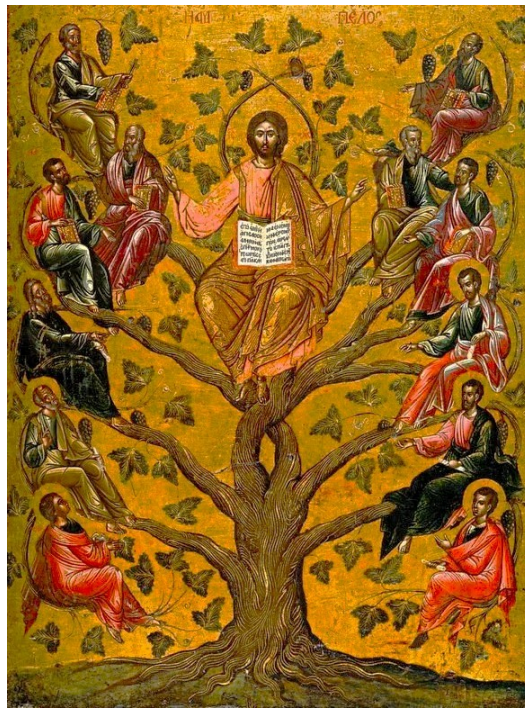
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# Weekly Worship

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 28, 2024**  
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## Community Prayer

God, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him. May we abide in his risen life so that we may bear the fruit of love for one another and know the fullness of joy. Amen.

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

## Call to Worship

One: We come to this place where God pours out love on us,

Many: we join our voices in praise, as our fears are left behind.

One: We open our hearts to the gifts of the Spirit,

Many: so that grace and peace might be the fruit we bear.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

*Connection*

I'm not much of a gardener. I don't really enjoy planting and maintaining plants, but I enjoy *looking* at the flowers and plants and admiring their beauty once they are planted. However, as much as I do not know, I DO know that there are certain things a plant needs. It needs water, it needs light, and it needs a connection to sustenance (roots). A plant that gets ripped out of the ground (as it does when my squirrels dig through my flower pots, naughty squirrels!) does not survive. In our text this week, we hear another "I Am" story from Jesus, this time "I am the true vine." It's a reminder to us that we have to remain firmly connected with the vine in order to survive and in order to bear fruit. Join us for worship this Sunday where we'll take a look at this text, listen for the word and teachings of God, fill our hearts with beautiful music and feast at the Lord's table. We'll see you Sunday!



## **PLEASE NOTE:**

The Live Streaming of our Worship services is Under Construction. You are welcome to watch but, please be prepared for possible issues. Thanks for your patience as this is being resolved.

# Scripture Readings

## 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

## John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



# Prayers & Praises

## April 28, 2024



## Song of the week

### All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest. Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.



#### 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 Korea

*“Gracious God, we give thanks for our partners in Korea and their witness to unity and healing in a fractured world. We give thanks for the 50 years of commitment that the NCKK Human Rights Center has shown to discern and deliberate together what fruit you would have us bear in a world of suffering and division.”*

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

