



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 May 12, 2024
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Community Prayer

Precious love, your ascended Son promised the gift of holy power. Send your Spirit of revelation and wisdom, that in the blessed freedom of hope, we may witness to the grace of forgiveness and sing songs of joy with the peoples of earth to the One who makes us one body. Amen.

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Call to Worship

One: We gather in this place, some empty, some filled, some whole, some broken:

Many: yearning for the Holy Spirit to fill us.

One: We surround the Table of grace, so that we might be fed by the Bread of life:

Many: that graced, we may serve others; that healed, we may bring hope to the world.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Departure and Arrival

It's Ascension Day for Jesus, and here are the disciples watching him go up up up into the heavens. However, he didn't leave the disciples without first giving them some last-minute orders and assurances. He tells them that they "will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes" upon them and they will go out to the ends of the earth sharing the Good News. If I were there, I'd probably forget Jesus' instructions because of the shock of watching Jesus float away. But they didn't forget his instructions, or else you and I wouldn't be people who follow Christ. Join us for worship this Sunday as we look at the departure of Jesus and the promised arrival of the Holy Spirit, gather in fellowship and are fed by beautiful music and the Lord's Supper. We'll see you Sunday!



Scripture Readings

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.



Prayers & Praises

May 12, 2024



Song of the week

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! his triumph, his victory alone! Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood: "Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now; Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how. Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er, shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay; Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day. Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own; Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne. As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest; here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.



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

Friends:

- *Sympathy to Lindsay Swanson and family - Lindsay's Dad - Gene Gangwish passed away May 1st. His service will be in Gibbon, NE on May 18th.*
- *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: Grand Island First Christian Church - Tamara Holtz, Interim

Our Global Ministries Missionaries: Mission Partners in Palestine

"Father, in heaven, we pray for all the countries in the Middle East where we, as the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), are trying to help Palestinians. We are praying for our beloved country, Lebanon, for the beautiful Jordan, for the heavily traumatized Gaza Strip, and for Palestinians everywhere. We live in one of the darkest times. It is like walking through dark clouds, and only Your light can illuminate our path. We are reminded daily that we are not of this world but are called to be a light in it, just as You are not of it. You have commissioned us to spread your love and peace to all we meet, especially those we serve through DSPR MECC."

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

