



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 July 7, 2024
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Community Prayer

God of grace and powerful weakness, at times your prophets were ignored, rejected, belittled, and unwelcome. Trusting that we, too, are called to be prophets, fill us with your Spirit, and support us by your gentle hands, that we may persevere in speaking your word and living our faith. Amen.

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

Call to Worship

One: With friends and strangers, with family and neighbors, we gather:

Many: Come among us, Healing God, with that love that never ends.

One: With word and wonder, with silence and song, we wait:

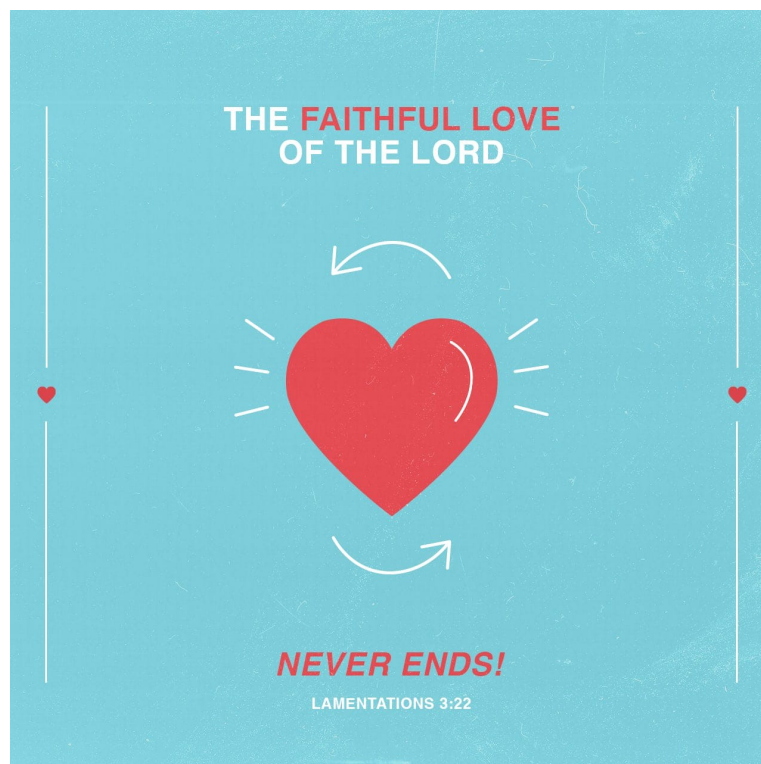
Many: Come among us, Dryer of our tears, to lift us to our feet to follow you.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Therefore I Have Hope

The book of Lamentations is a collection of five poems dealing with the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. The ancient Hebrew word for "lament" can also be translated as "dirge," which is a lament for the dead. A song of sorrow. The poems describe, in a personified manner, how the city and country, palace and Temple, king and people, suffered under this terrible catastrophe. They are communal laments, because, as one scholar has written, "when we hurt physically, we cry out in pain; when we hurt religiously, we lament." So, not surprisingly, the book of Lamentations has a lot of sorrow. But it also has a lot of hope. Lamentations shows that we have power to control our reactions to the despair we encounter. We have power over whether we respond with despair or with hope. We can choose to respond with hope because we know that things can change, that we are not helpless and that God is with us. And out of this we find hope. And we all need a little hope. Join us for Sunday worship: for a time of listening for God's voice that speaks to us still, for a time of elevating music, for fellowship and the Lord's Supper. We'll see you at First!



Scripture Readings

Lamentations 3:22-33

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

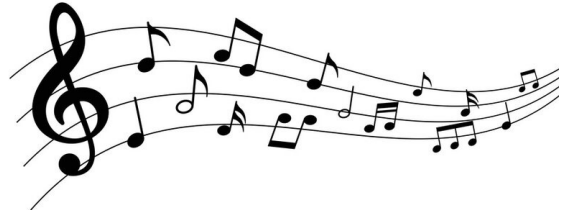
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the
morning, more than those who watch
for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast
love, and with him is great power to re-
deem. It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.



Prayers & Praises

July 7, 2024



Song of the week

We Praise You, O God

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers; through trial and tempest our guide you have been. When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us, and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us. To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!



In Our Church Family:

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

Donna Baker, *recently diagnosed with a form of cancer behind her ear. Donna will begin treatments soon.*

Friends:

- John Burkhart, *husband of Cecilia Burkhart is being treated for cancer behind his voice box.*
- 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: Murray Christian Church
- Pulpit Supply

Our Global Ministries Missionaries: Sri Lanka

“God of mercy and compassion, pour your power upon all your children in Sri Lanka – Buddhists, Christians, Muslims, and Hindus. Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, and occupation to liberation. May violent encounters be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all.”

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

