



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, Pastor
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries
Elaine Parman, Administrative Assistant

Week of August 25, 2024
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Community Prayer

Source of life, you feed us with the spiritual milk of your love and deliver us from darkness to light. Encompass us in the circle of your protection, that, secure in your sustaining power, we may find the wisdom and strength to challenge the evils of our time. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

Many: To you our hearts and souls sing for joy, O God.

One: Happy are those who live in your house, O Lord of hosts.

Many: Happy are those whose strength is in you, O God.

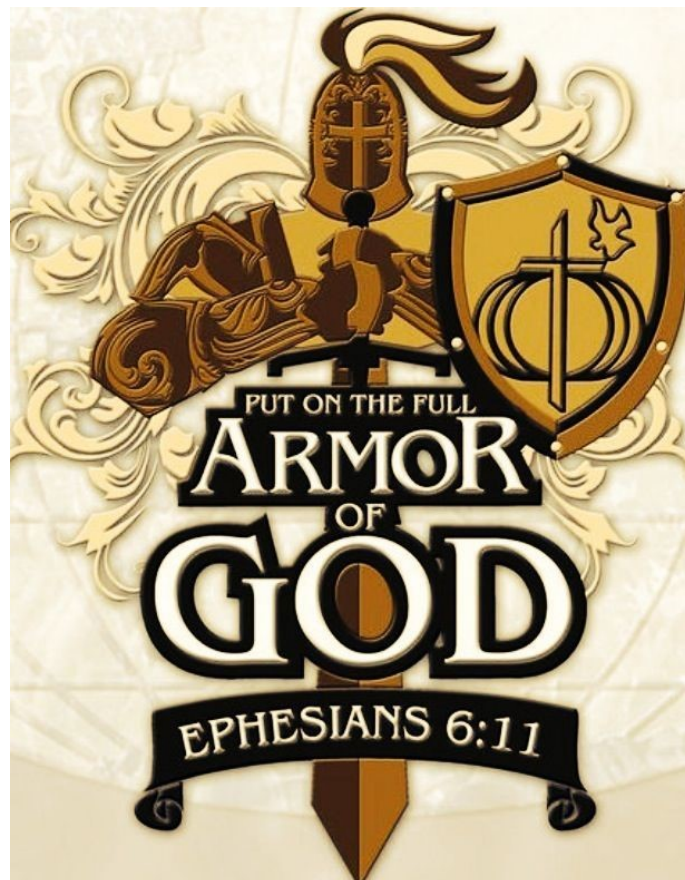
One: O Lord of hosts, happy are those who trust in you.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

The Armor of God

In the conclusion of Paul's letter to the people of Ephesus, Paul implores his readers to protect themselves from the broken forces of the world in which they live. He writes, *"Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."* And then he begins to describe what this armor consists of: truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, the Spirit and the Word. As Paul describes this armor of God we can almost imagine those elements draping themselves upon us, strengthening us for the journey, and equipping us for what lays before us. How can we use this in our own lives today? Join us for worship, for a time of listening to God's still voice for us today, a time of feasting at the Lord's table, a time of song and fellowship. We'll see you at First!



Scripture Readings

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand, therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Prayers & Praises

August 25, 2024



Song of the week

Lead On, O King Eternal!

Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come; henceforth in fields of conquest your tents shall be our home. Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong, and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace; for not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums; with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears; your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light. The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

In Our Church Family:

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

Wayne Duncan, *now going to outpatient therapy at Madonna.*

Donna Baker, *has started a series of radiation treatments.*

Friends:

- Allen Watsek, brother of Gwen Belden is being treated for cancer.
- 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: Plattsmouth First Christian Church - Rev. Michael Lincoln

Our Global Ministries Missionaries: India

"We thank you for the witness of countless institutions like the Center for Social Equity and Inclusion that testify to the possibilities of abundant life even in the midst of the valleys of weeping. Strengthen and magnify such institutions here in the US, in India, and across the world so that the world may have a foretaste of thy Kingdom that is already here among us. As the Psalmist says, you are the sun and shield, and we pray that you bestow and clothe all who pursue the ways of your kingdom with thy favor and honor. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!"

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

