



**First Christian Church**

Disciples of Christ

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## Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

**The Rev. Kara Hillhouse**, Pastor  
**Mark W. Miller**, Director of Worship, Music & Sacred Arts  
**Elaine Parman**, Administrative Assistant

**Week of April 20, 2025**  
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### Community Prayer

We exult in your love, O God of the living, for you made the tomb of death the womb from which you bring forth your Son, the first-born of a new creation, and you anointed the universe with the fragrant Spirit of his resurrection. Make us joyful witnesses to this good news, that all humanity may one day gather at the feast of new life in the kingdom where you reign for ever and ever. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,  
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### Call to Worship

One: Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: May his grace and peace be with you.

Many: May he fill our hearts with joy. Alleluia!

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Luke 24: 1-12

*The Risky Choice: Believe!*

Faith is, at its core, a risk. It's choosing to trust in something and someone we cannot physically sit down and talk with (although I would challenge what I just said by reminding myself that we *do* have access to "one-on-one" conversations with God through prayer, and can encounter God in other ways as well....i.e. Paul on that road to Damascus). But I can't really buy God a cup of coffee for a chat. It's a little counterintuitive to place our trust in something we can't understand fully--we like details, hard facts, certainties. And, although we do get some of those when we place our faith in Jesus Christ, there's a certain amount of divine mystery involved. And we just have to be okay with that. So...it's a risk. And yet, despite the risk and the uncertainty (and maybe even doubts), we gather this week to praise God for the great gift of Jesus Christ, who loved us so much he *gave* his life so that you and I might *have* Life! Easter is truly a time of joy. We ARE an Easter people...that is the very foundation of our identity. Let us remember that our lives have been changed by this great gift by joining together to praise God! I hope you'll join us for this special celebration. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



# Scripture Readings

## Psalm 118:17, 21 -24

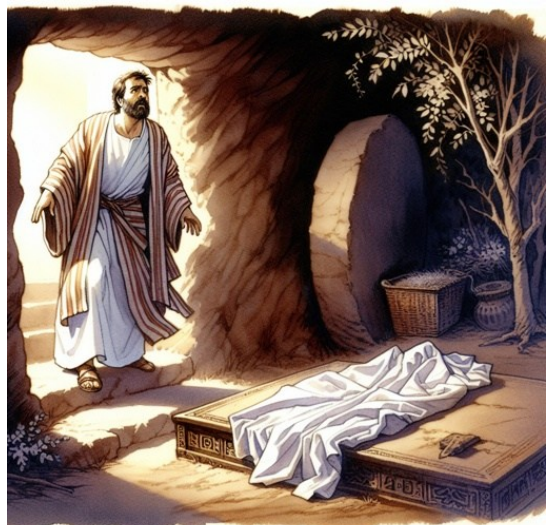
I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.



## Luke 24:1 - 12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.





# Prayers & Praises

## April 20, 2025

## Song of the week

### In Our Church Family:

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

*Sympathy to the Ortega family.* Vincent's last uncle, Antonio (Tony) Villavicencio passed away. The family attended services in Colorado.

*Sympathy to the family of Rae-Hope Putney.* Rae-Hope passed away March 22nd. Her Memorial Service was Saturday, April 12th.

*Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek.* Roger had shoulder surgery on April 11th and Jessica has back issues.

### Friends:

- Jody Schrage, friend of Katelyn Long. She is having shoulder surgery.
- Linda De Los Santos, sister of Vincent Ortega. Linda is home and continues rehab.

### Our Timothy:

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

**In the Nebraska Region: Fairbury Christian Church - Darlene Novotny**

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: the Middle East

*"God of resurrection hope, as we frantically search for your comforting presence in places of death, we ask that you appear before us and grant us the vision to see you in the midst of the pain and loss that has become our daily bread. Cleanse our eyes and hearts from the depths of grief and despair we inhabit, and direct our tongues and feet to paths of witness and service."*

### Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today! Death's mighty stone is rolled away. Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



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

