



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

The Rev. Kara Hillhouse, Pastor
Mark W. Miller, Director of Worship, Music & Sacred Arts
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Week of April 27, 2025
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Community Prayer

O God, you raised up Jesus Christ as your faithful witness and the first-born of the dead. By your Holy Spirit, help us to witness to him so that those who have not yet seen may come to believe in him who is, and was, and is to come. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: Praise God with clapping hands;

Many: praise God with hands comforting a child.

One: Praise God with silent hearts;

Many: praise God with hearts broken for the world.

One: Praise God with dancing steps;

Many: praise God with feet walking for justice.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

John 20:19-31

Set Free

For ten years Chapman University has done an annual Chapman Survey of American Fears. The survey focuses on what Americans fear, the possible causes of those fears and how the fears affect the individuals' lives. The survey asks participants about 85 fears from categories ranging from fears about the government and the election, to the fear of crime, the environment, the economy, personal finances, AI technology, sickness and health, natural and man-made disasters, terrorism, war, ghosts, and others. The results? Between one-half and two-thirds of Americans live with fear on a daily basis. So...I believe the scripture for this Sunday is relevant to us, especially today. In it, we find Jesus appearing to his disciples after his Resurrection. The disciples had all heard about what had happened to Jesus, and Jesus had appeared to some of the disciples already, but some of them had not encountered the Resurrected Savior in person yet. The disciples are afraid. They're hiding behind locked doors. I would imagine they're afraid of so much that they cannot understand, and yet at the same time cautiously hopeful, because, if all that they've heard is true, somewhere Jesus is alive. I think we're all afraid and hiding behind something; and I think we're all cautiously hopeful, because we, too, have heard the Good News of the Resurrected Christ. What God longs to do is set us free from these fears that hold us hostage. Join us for worship this Sunday, for a time of fellowship, worship and listening for God's gentle nudging as we continue to seek the Resurrected Christ. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

(John 20:19-31 continued)

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!



John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with

with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails, and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



Prayers & Praises

April 27, 2025



Song of the week

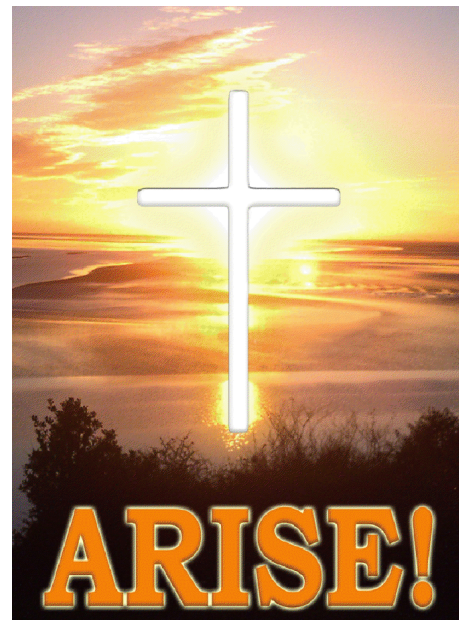
Day of Arising

Day of arising, Christ on the roadway,
unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him, as fades the first day,
and bread is broken, Christ is made known.

When we are walking, doubtful and
dreading, blinded by sadness, slowness of
heart, yet Christ walks with us, ever awaiting
our invitation: Stay, do not part.

Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken. This is
Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign: when
the church gathers, when bread is broken,
there Christ is with us, in bread and wine.

Christ, our companion, hope for the journey,
bread of compassion, open our eyes. Grant us
your vision, set all hearts burning that all
creation with you may rise.



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

Prayers for John Christ, brother of Jim Christ. John had stomach surgery last week.

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

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

Friends:

- Nikki, *friend of Katelyn Long*. She is recovering from recent gastric bypass surgery.
- 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: Faith Christian Church, Omaha - Lisa Sherman

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: South Africa

"We are experiencing so many challenges and problems, and we acknowledge that we sometimes doubt and sometimes it is just so difficult to keep the faith. Breathe the Holy Spirit into our anxious lives, Lord, and give us peace. Strengthen our faith, Lord, and forgive us for doubting you."

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

