



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 May 25, 2025
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Community Prayer

Gracious God, through a vision you sent forth Paul to preach the gospel and called the women to the place of prayer on the Sabbath. Grant that we may be like Paul and be found like Lydia, our hearts responsive to your word and open to go where you lead us. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: May God be gracious to us; May God bless us.

Many: We gather in worship, knowing God is here.

One: May God's face shine upon us.

Many: May God call us into the joyful work of creating peace.

One: Let us worship our God in praise.

Sermon

From Pastor Rachel Johnson

Revelation 21:10, 22:1-5

Is this THE END?

For some people this question is answered with a confident and expectant “YES! Hallelujah!” But there are folks who have enough experience of the Bible or church or church people to know that one day there will be an end, and for some that end will not be pleasant. COVID-19, the war in Israel, political issues and devastating weather events are sited as signs the end is nigh.

When Jesus said, “I’ll be back” and “I’ve gone to prepare a place for you” his followers had MORE questions. His admonishment against fear often goes out the window when we want answers about what happens at our individual or collective end. John’s description of judgement in Revelation leaves many wondering whether they need eternal fire insurance. There are many best-selling books that claim to have decoded this book. Readers seek reassurance of being on the right side to ease the discomfort of uncertainty. But how much of life is certain?

This is Mental Health Awareness Month. Faith communities are uniquely poised to provide places where people can experience acceptance, nurture and hope. This presence is needed now more than ever as people report increased anxiety over world events, individual and family safety, personal finances and climate change.* How can we be a presence of peace in an anxious world without dismissing the complexity of today’s issues? How do thoughtful people of faith answer questions about “THE END”?

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday! *Rachel*

*<https://www.psychiatry.org/News-room/News-Releases/Annual-Mental-Health-Poll-2025>



**NO JUDGMENT.
JUST HELP.**

TEXT, CALL, CHAT

988

Scripture Readings

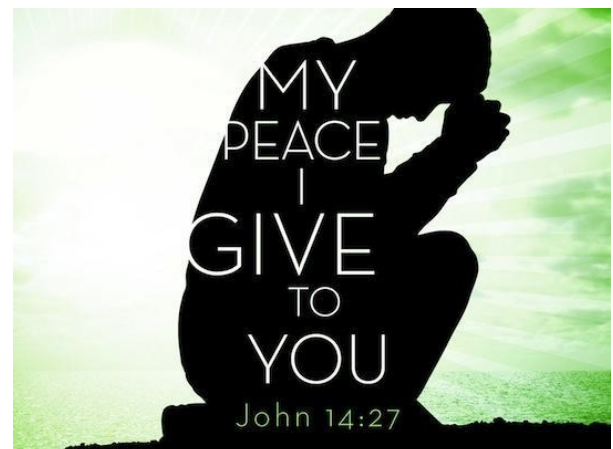
Revelation 21:10, 22:1-5

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river, is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.



John 14:23-29

Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.



Prayers & Praises

May 25, 2025



Song of the week

Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet
have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the
throne of God?

Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful,
the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver
spray, we will walk and worship ever, all the happy
golden day. [Refrain]

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden
down; grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a
robe and crown. [Refrain]

Soon we'll reach the shining river; soon our
pilgrimage will cease; soon our happy hearts will
quiver with the melody of peace. [Refrain]



In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- 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 family of Richard Cox. Richard is the father of Chelle Cox, Sondra Peterson, and grandfather of Bailey, Hanna & Manny Taylor. Richard passed away May 13th.

Prayers for Hunter Christianson. Hunter continues to recover from recent knee surgery.

Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek. Roger is recovering from shoulder surgery and Jessica has back issues.

Friends:

- Jeanne Schruck, mother of Meghan Schruck Cowger. Jeanne is having lung surgery on June 9th.
- Nikki, friend of Katelyn Long. She is recovering from recent gastric bypass 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: Hastings First Christian Church - Elba Iris Nazario

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Philippines

"Our situation looks dire. Criminality and drug use are on the rise. The streets are not safe, especially for women and children. Some police officers are brutal, rude, and disrespectful. Even lawmakers are abusive and arrogant. Filipinos are divided by ideology and politics. People fear the return of authoritarianism and dictatorship in the country's governance. Further, the country's economy may be on the verge of collapsing. Its debts have risen to trillions already. There are no job opportunities, and people depend on financial assistance. Additionally, natural disasters and the effects of climate change are significant threats to the Philippines!"

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visit www.globalministries.org

