



First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

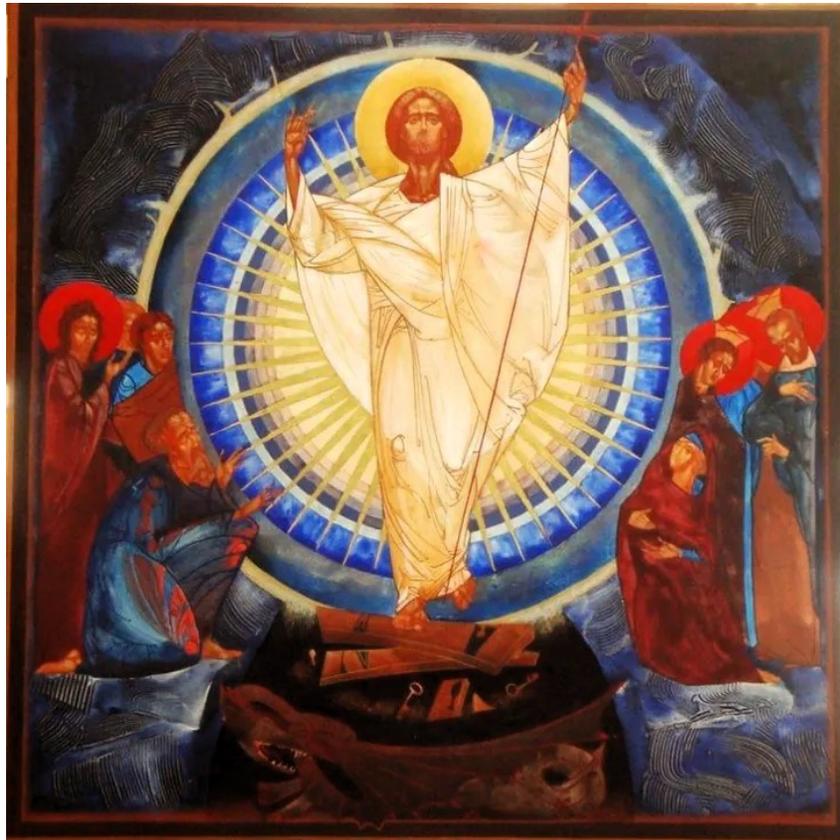
430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

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
Amy Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Week of April 5, 2026
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Community Prayer

O God of glory, in the Easter dawn you raised Jesus from death to life. As we are united with him in death, so unite us with him in resurrection, that we may walk in newness of life. 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

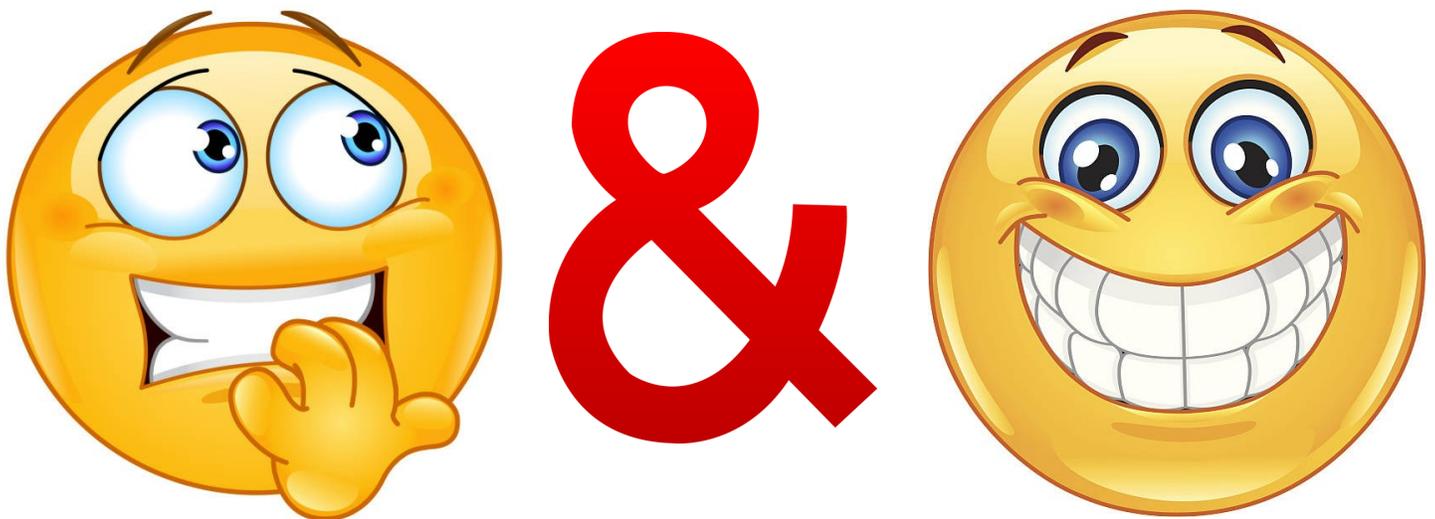
From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Matthew 28:1-10

Fear and Great Joy

The accounts of Jesus' Resurrection are (not surprisingly) different in each of the Gospels. The discrepancies shouldn't make us question the Resurrection, though; they're merely what happens when different eyewitnesses share their version of an event. Because people experience things differently, and then, as stories are passed from person to person, details can evolve. But the heart of the Resurrection story is identical in all four Gospels in two ways. First, Jesus rose. He experienced the worst humanity had to offer, and even the worst couldn't overpower him. And, second, every single person present experienced both fear and great joy. It's hard to believe sometimes, which is why we experience both fear and joy. Yet we choose to trust even when we do not understand. What I do know is that I have experienced resurrection in my own life, as well as fear and great joy. So (to quote Job), I know that my Redeemer lives. Join us for joyful Easter at First Christian, where we'll celebrate the overwhelming power of God's love. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



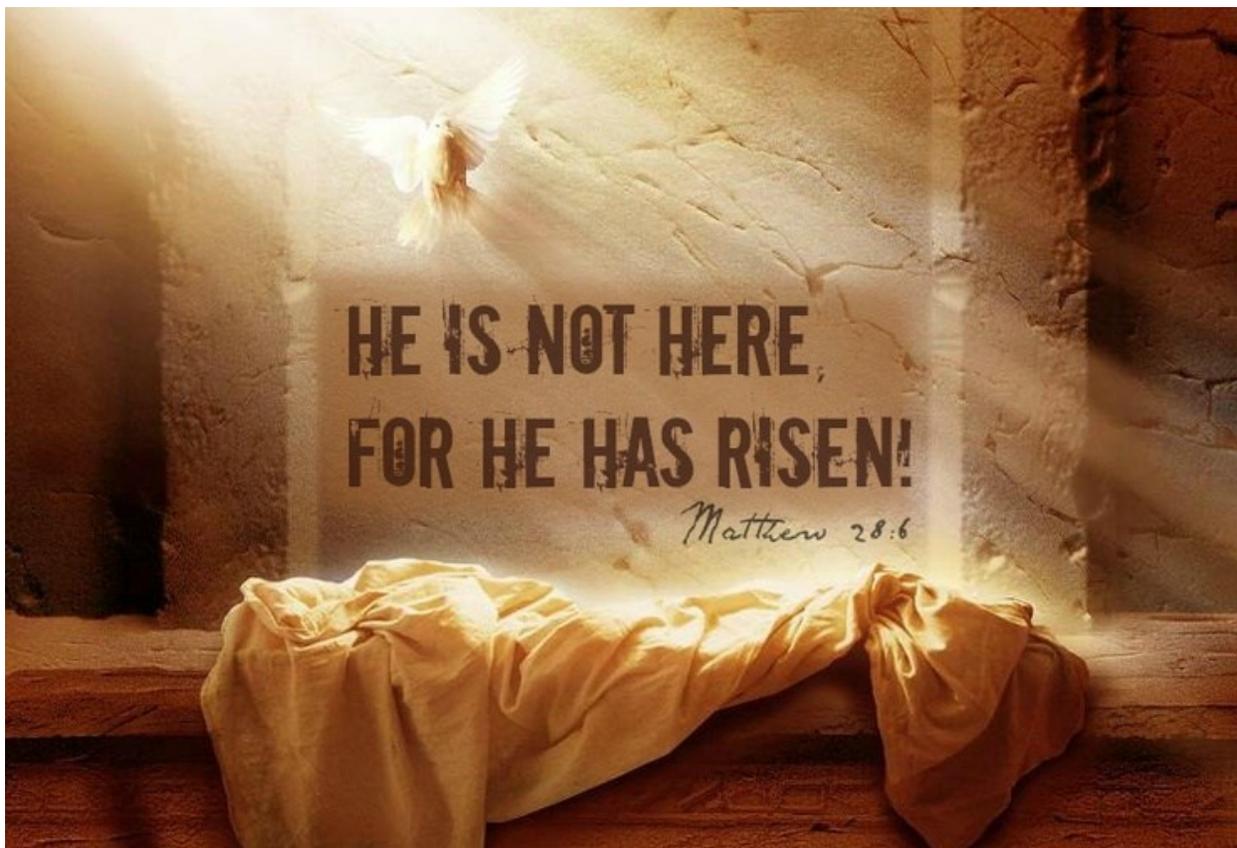
Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.”

“After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.’ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’ ”



Prayers & Praises

April 5, 2026



In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Cec Burkhart
- Jim Christ
- Joan Dietrich
- Ron Hile
- Debby Ortega
- Polly Putney
- Bob Throop
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers for the Bowker family, as they continue to grieve the death of Kristi's sister, Laurie Aufdemberge, from breast cancer.

Prayers for Cec Burkhart, who continues to recover from a broken hip after several falls.

Prayers for Ron Hile, as he continues to heal from several falls.

Prayers for Debby Ortega as she continues to heal from a broken arm following an accident.

Prayers for Bob Throop for continued healing and strength.

Prayers for Jim Christ as he continues to gain strength with cardiac rehabilitation.

Prayers for Roger Vocasek as he looks for a job.

Prayers Jessica Stehlik-Vocasek for her health issues.

Prayers for Katelyn Long for continued healing and strength.

Friends:

- Ron Collamore, *prayers for his health.*

Our Timothy:

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

In the Nebraska Region: General Ministries of the Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Japan
"Dear God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of all things, we praise your holy name. The world you love is still filled with difficulties, but we believe there is a plan, your plan of salvation, that is there beyond our human thought. Please guide us so that we can respect each other and walk together with mutual care. We pray that the issues and ideas shared in this forum will help bring true peace to your beloved world. We who walk together on the journey of faith offer this prayer before you, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia! who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured. Alleluia! Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia! Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!



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



APRIL

Call to Confession

One:

It was early in the morning when a voice proclaimed that death had been defeated and Jesus was alive in our midst. Death is still defeated by God's Eternal Life, and for that we give thanks. But, while it is true that we ourselves did not put Jesus to death on the Cross, we know all the ways in which we kill his love, by not allowing it to transform our lives. Let us confess our sins to God, as we pray together, saying:

Prayer of Confession

Many:

We lock the doors of compassion, God of Resurrection, and share it only with those we believe to be deserving. We harden our hearts to the cries around us. We close our eyes to those who suffer, pretending it will all go away if we do not look. Forgive us, Hope of the Ages, and have mercy upon us. Help us know that when we do these things, it is as though we have locked Christ in his tomb. Because we want to be your servants, teach us how to lead selfless lives, so that all might know your love and find their peace in your kingdom.

Good News of God's Grace

One:

From the shadows of life, God brings us into the Light of Christ. From the prison of all the ways we miss the mark, God sets us free to live in hope. This is the Good News: the tomb is empty, death is conquered, sin has lost its grip on us!

Many:

We are a new people, shaped by the Risen Lord into new life forever! Thanks be to God. Amen.