



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
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Week of April 12, 2026
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Community Prayer

Blessed are you, O God of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we receive the legacy of a living hope, born again not only from his death but also from his resurrection. May we who have received forgiveness of sins through the Holy Spirit live to set others free, until, at length, we enter the inheritance that is imperishable and unfading, where Christ lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: We have not seen the risen Christ,

Many: but we see him in the lives of those transformed by grace.

One: We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

Many: but we have been called to bring healing to the scarred of the world.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

John 20:19-31

A Wounded Healer

When the risen Jesus first appeared to his disciples, he showed them the scars on his hands and side. Although God had restored Jesus to life, his scars remained? I've always found that curious. Why not restore Jesus to his pre-Crucified body? I think it's because God knew we needed a Savior who understood suffering. After all, how could we ever place our trust in a God who had not personally experienced the sorrows we bear? Christ's wounds were visible proof that he had been to hell and back. Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Carl Jung coined the phrase "Wounded Healer" in 1951, and twenty years later theologian Henri Nouwen used it to describe how helping others, even when we are hurting, can provide healing for *them*, as well as for ourselves. Join us for worship, where we'll ponder how God can use our own scars to help others find healing. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

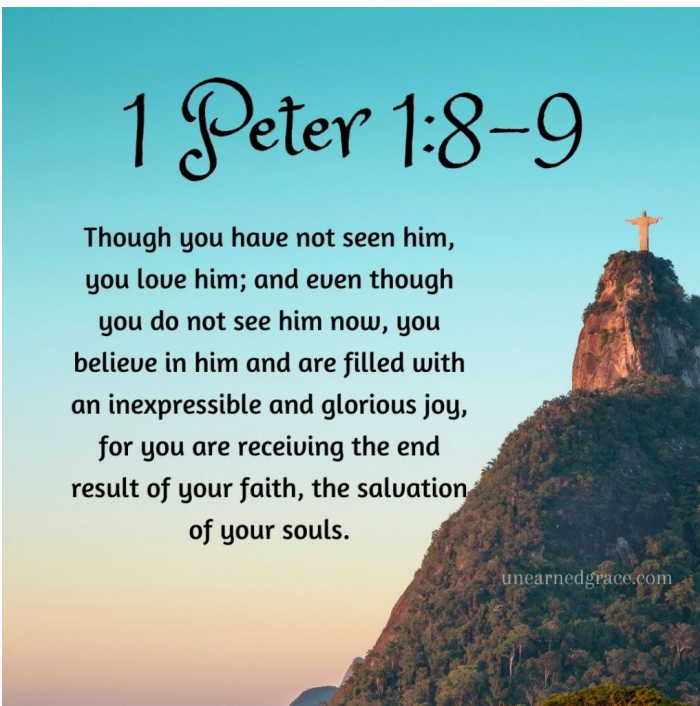
John 20:19-31

“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 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.”

1 Peter 1:8-9

Though you have not seen him,
you love him; and even though
you do not see him now, you
believe in him and are filled with
an inexpressible and glorious joy,
for you are receiving the end
result of your faith, the salvation
of your souls.

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Prayers & Praises

April 12, 2026



Song of the Week

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light when, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord.

He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the glorious wounds abide, the tokens true which made it plain their Lord indeed was risen again.

From every weapon death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield; O Lord of all, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide.



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: Fairbury First Christian Church - Darlene Novotny

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Lesotho

"Lord, we lift up our country, Lesotho, into your loving hands. Let your peace dwell in our land, in our leaders, and in every village and home. Heal divisions, guide those in authority with wisdom, and help our nation walk in justice, compassion, and truth. Bless the communities and people we serve. Where there is suffering, bring healing; where there is doubt, plant faith; where there is despair, awaken hope. Amen."

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.