



**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  
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**Week of April 19, 2026**  
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### Community Prayer

Elusive God, companion on the way, you walk behind, beside, beyond; you catch us unawares. Break through the disillusionment and despair clouding our vision, that, with wide-eyed wonder, we may find our way and journey on as messengers of your good news. Amen.

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

One: Where life is stronger than death:

Many: there, the stone has been rolled away.

One: Where hope is stronger than despair:

Many: there, we find Jesus walking.

One: Where love is stronger than hate:

Many: there, Jesus is opening our eyes. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

# Sermon

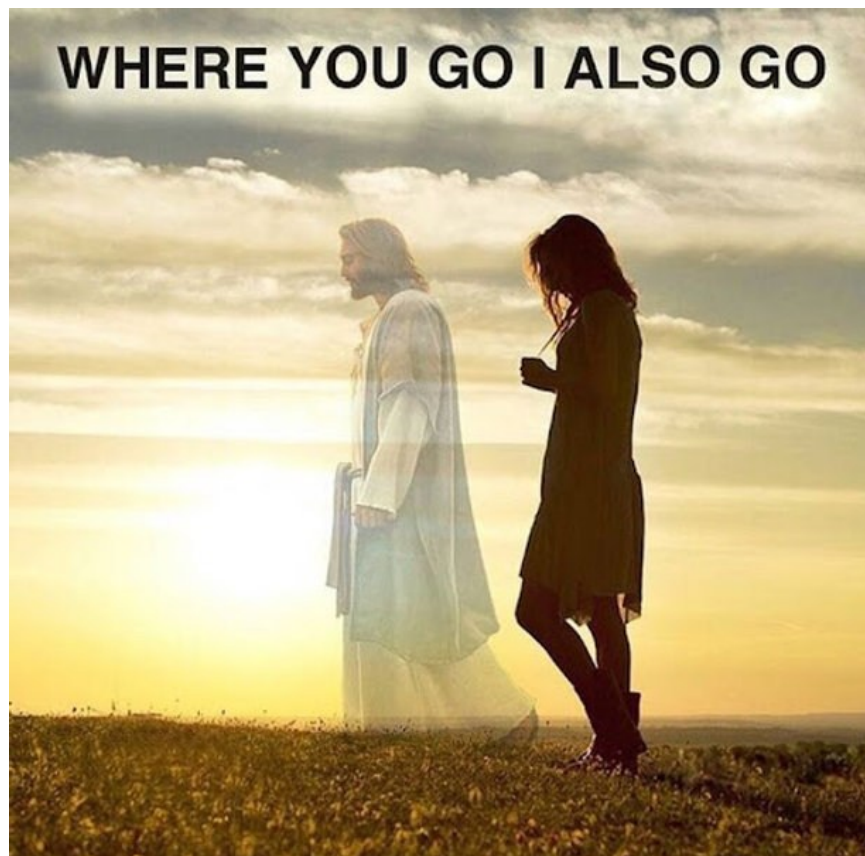
From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Luke 24:13-35

*Just A Closer Walk with Thee*

On this third Sunday of Easter, the post-Resurrection Jesus continues to make himself known to his disciples--this time on the road to Emmaus. Some of the disciples were walking and talking, disturbed and distressed by all that had happened that morning: the stone rolled away? The tomb empty? What did it all mean?? Coming upon them, Jesus engaged them in conversation, but the disciples didn't recognize him--not until much later. It makes me wonder: are there moments when the Risen One is right by our side, yet we don't recognize him? Maybe we're not paying attention, or we're too caught up in our own worries, or whatever else might prevent us from having eyes to see his presence. Join us for worship this Sunday, when we'll talk about how God is always by our side, patiently waiting for us to recognize him; and learning how to have eyes to see. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



# Scripture Reading

## Psalm 116:1-4; 12-19

“I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: ‘O Lord, I pray, save my life!’

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!”

## Luke 24:13-35

“Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders

handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.”



# Prayers & Praises

## April 19, 2026



## 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
- 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:** Faith Christian Church, Omaha - Leaders

**Our Global Ministries Missionaries in:** Armenia/ Middle East

*“Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, guide us to express our questions, even if they are directed at you. Help us not to fear when we don't have answers. Open our eyes to your presence at our side. Supplant our defeatedness with the joy that comes from knowing that you have overcome the evil and hatred all around. O Holy One, Prince of Peace, be with us, even now on this journey, and bestow your Spirit upon us to make us your witnesses. Amen.*

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