



**First Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> 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 26, 2026  
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## Community Prayer

Holy Shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, where we celebrate with you forever. Amen.

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

One: Day by day, God leads us:

Many: to the deep pools of peace, to the green lawns of grace.

One: Day by day, Jesus calls us:

Many: to pour out ourselves in service, to anoint the stranger with hope.

One: Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

Many: the community we could be, the family we are called to become.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

1 Peter 2:21-25

*Trustworthy*

Trust is something that doesn't always come easily. Perhaps we have been let down before, and it's safer to depend only on ourselves. Otherwise, we risk disappointment. That is definitely an option--we can go it alone and be self-sufficient--and we could probably survive this way...but it isn't what God intended for us. In the overarching story of God's fidelity to his people, which we read about in the Old and New Testaments, we see why we can trust in God. God stood with his people over and over, through good and bad times. And by that, I mean times when the Israelites were behaving well, and times when they were rebellious, unfaithful, and lost. But God stood steadfast... because God is trustworthy. Join us for worship, where we'll explore why we *can* trust in the Lord, and why we *need* to trust in the Lord. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



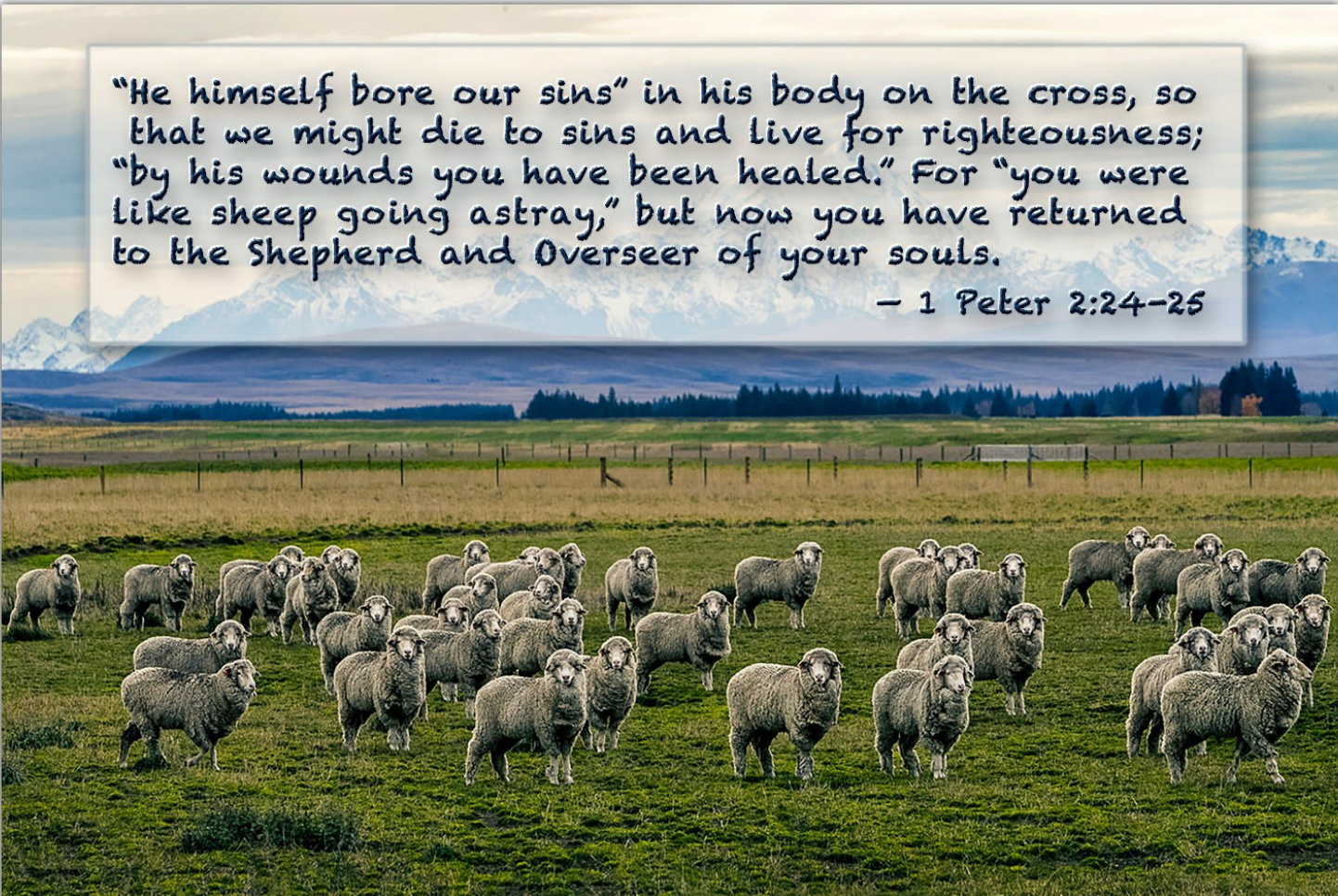
# Scripture Reading

## Psalm 23

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.”

## 1 Peter 2:21-25

“For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ‘He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.’ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.”



“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

— 1 Peter 2:24-25

# Prayers & Praises

## April 26, 2026



## Song of the Week

### O Jesus, I Have Promised

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; be now and always near me, my Master and my friend; I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side, nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me! The world is ever near: I see the sights that dazzle; the tempting sounds I hear. My foes are ever near me, around me and within; but, Jesus, draw still nearer and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will; O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, true guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you that where you are in glory your servant shall be too. And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; now give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.



### 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:** Falls City First Christian Church - Grant Speece (Interim)

**Our Global Ministries Missionaries in:** Indonesia

*“Gracious Shepherd, we pray for Indonesia, especially for the people of Merauke in South Papua, whose lands and villages are undergoing major transformation through the national food estate project. May they truly experience Your shepherd-ing presence, guiding, protecting, and sustaining them in this uncertain time. Strengthen Your church to stand with vulnerable communities so that all may truly experience the fullness of life You promise. 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.

## Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

### Who is My Neighbor

FEATURING:  
Nebraska State Poet  
Jewel Rogers



May 7th 2026

42nd Annual Mayor's Interfaith

# Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 7 | Doors Open at 7:30 AM

Venue 5 Twenty-Two

1525 Yankee Hill Rd, Lincoln

### Get Tickets

Scan to reserve tickets online  
or reserve tickets by mail:

**Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast**  
c/o Asian Community & Cultural Center  
144 N. 44th Street, Ste. A  
Lincoln, NE 68503

Please include name, address, and email.

Make checks payable to:

**FCLC "Interfaith Prayer Breakfast"**



Reserve  
by April 29