



**First Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ

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# Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

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**Week of May 17, 2026**  
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## Community Prayer

Precious love, your ascended Son promised the gift of holy power. Send your Spirit of revelation and wisdom, that in the blessed freedom of hope, we may witness to the grace of forgiveness and sing songs of joy with the peoples of earth to the One who makes us one body. Amen.

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

One: We gather in this place, some empty, some whole, some broken:

**Many:** yearning for the Holy spirit to fill us.

One: We come, with these people, who have shown us the way:

**Many:** trusting that God will continue to illumine our hearts.

One: We surround the Table of grace, so we might be fed by the Bread of life:

**Many:** that graced, we may serve others; that healed, we may bring hope to the world.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Luke 24:44-53

*Liftoff!*

I wonder if I would have "returned to Jerusalem with great joy." That's what it says the disciples did in Luke, after Jesus bid them farewell (after one final lesson in Biblical History, that is) and was lifted up into the heavens. The text says they worshipped him and returned to the Holy City with great joy. If it had been me, I think I'd continue standing, staring into the sky where Jesus had been, trying to understand what in the world had just happened. Like the Ascension story in Acts, it would have taken the two men in white saying, "why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" to get me moving. It wasn't just Jesus' liftoff that occurred that day. It was the launch of a whole new movement: taking the Good News into the world. Join us for worship this Ascension Sunday, a time of remembering that we can't always explain God's ways and works, but we can definitely understand the power of his love, which we are called to take out into the world. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



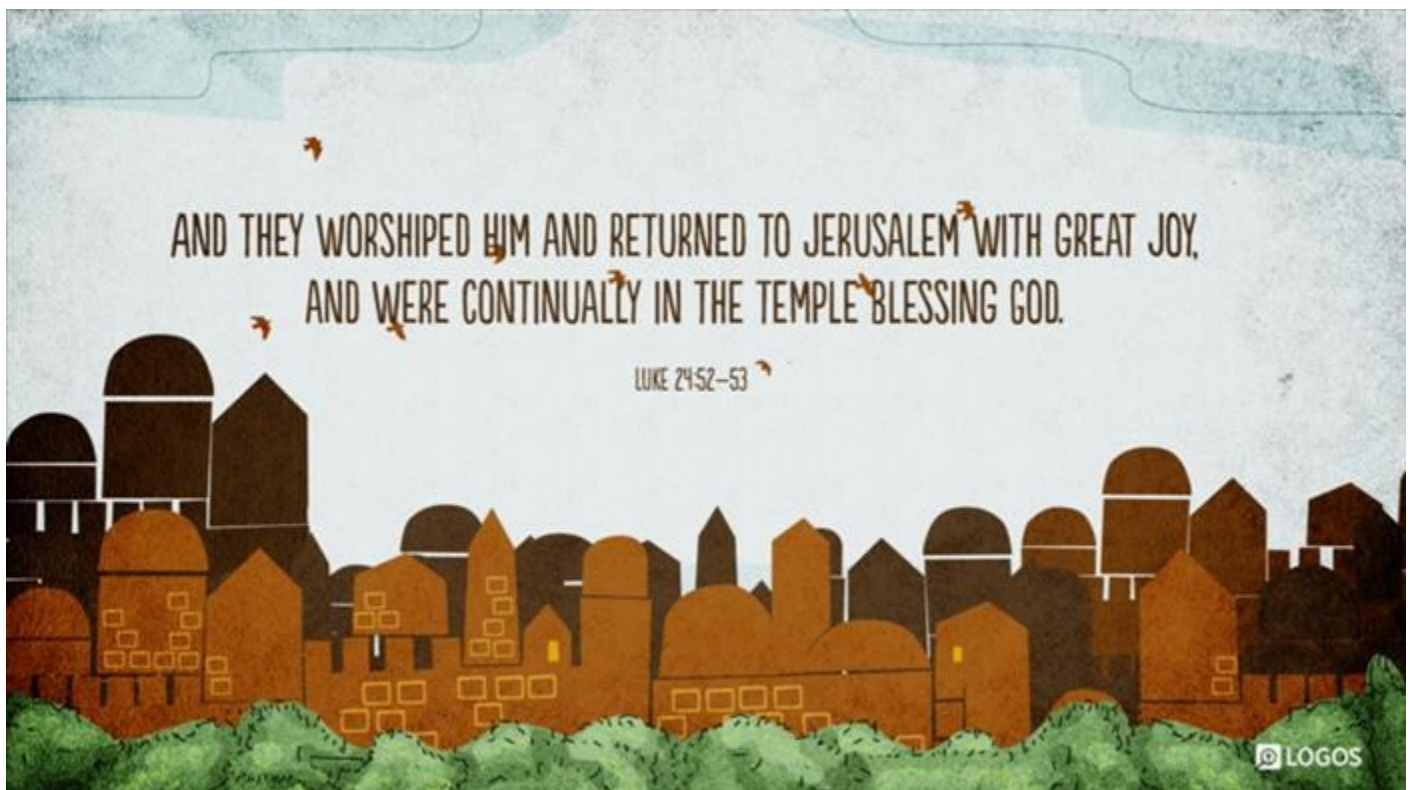
# Scripture Reading

## Psalm 47

“Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm. God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.”

## Luke 24:44-53

“Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.”



# Prayers & Praises

## May 17, 2026



### In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Cec Burkhart
- Joan Dietrich
- Polly Putney
- Bob Throop
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

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

*Prayers for Bob Throop* for continued healing and strength.

*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:** Havelock Christian Church, Lincoln - Rob Welch

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Kenya

*“Dear God, we pray for the clergy and members of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church of Nairobi and their far reaching programs of care and evangelism in Kenya’s capital city as well as the patients and staff of the world-class Kikuyu Hospital, operated by the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, and especially for its ophthalmic unit. We also lift up Kenya’s agricultural sector that is under threat from extreme weather, including devastating floods and severe drought. Amen.”*

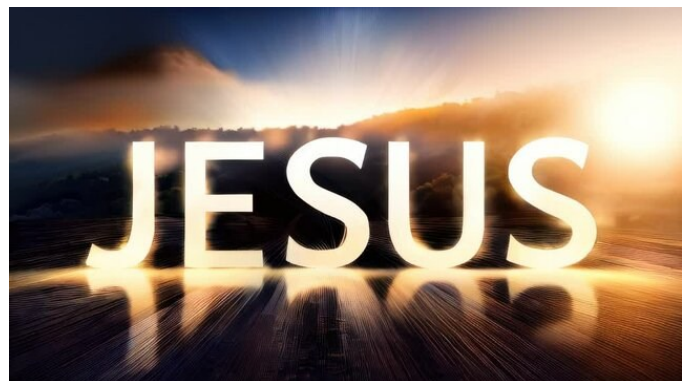
## At the Name of Jesus

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him King of glory now;  
‘tis the Father’s pleasure we should call him  
Lord, who from the beginning was the  
mighty Word.

Humbled for a season to receive a name from  
the lips of sinners unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious, when from the  
death he passed;

Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,  
through all ranks of creatures, to the central  
height, to the throne of Godhead, to the  
Father’s breast, filled it with the glory of that  
perfect rest.

Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
with his Father’s glory o’er the earth to reign;  
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him King of glory  
now.



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



MAY

Call to Confession

One:

Called to proclaim repentance, we are reluctant to look at our own fail-  
ings. Invited to witness to God's forgiveness of sins, we would rather not  
speak aloud of our own. Let us trust in the One who offers us hope and  
healing, as together we confess our struggles in following Christ, pray-  
ing,

Prayer of Confession

Many:

You call us to proclaim a gospel we find difficult to practice, God  
Most High. We confess we want to spend more time with ourselves  
than with you. We are hesitant to speak of your power to others, as  
we doubt its presence in our own lives. Forgive us, God of Mercy.  
Fill us with your Spirit, that, having been transformed by it, we may  
boldly proclaim your Good News to all who wait for it with eager  
longing.

Good News of God's Grace

One:

Do not be afraid of God. In love, God forgives us; in grace, God redeems  
us; in hope, God sends us forth to share the Good News.

Many:

Through Christ's Resurrection, we are a new people. The old has  
gone, the new has begun. Thanks be to God! Amen.