

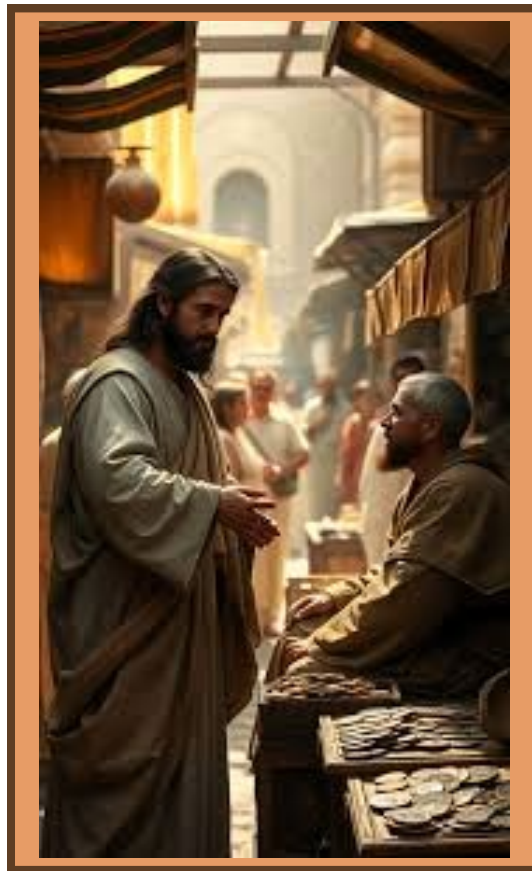


Weekly Worship

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 June 7, 2026
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Community Prayer

O God, as the showers renew the earth, bathe us in your healing power. Stretch out your hand, that we may live and know that you alone are God, in whose faithfulness we have life all our days. Amen.

*“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
copyright 2002 Consultation on Common Texts”*

Call to Worship

One: The sinners, the saints; the broken, the whole:

Many: We all come seeking the One who offers grace and hope.

One: The doubters, the devout; the wonderers, the wanderers:

Many: We all seek to follow the One who works for justice and hope for all of God's people.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Matthew 9:9-13

He Heard My Cry for Mercy

"Mercy" is one of the attributes of God I am most drawn to. And, although it's one of the main characters in the Good News story, mercy is a bit of an introvert that doesn't get focused on often enough. It can be defined in slightly different ways, but here's one way I'd define it: mercy is what someone is demonstrating when they have compassion on/ forgiveness for another person, even when that person deserves to be punished instead. I.e., unlike grace, where we get what we don't deserve; mercy is when we don't get what we do deserve. In our text this week, when the Pharisees criticized Jesus for hanging out with sinners, he told them to go figure out what he meant by "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." This week in worship we'll explore mercy: the mercy we receive from God and the mercy he calls us to give to others. Make Sunday worship a part of your week. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Reading

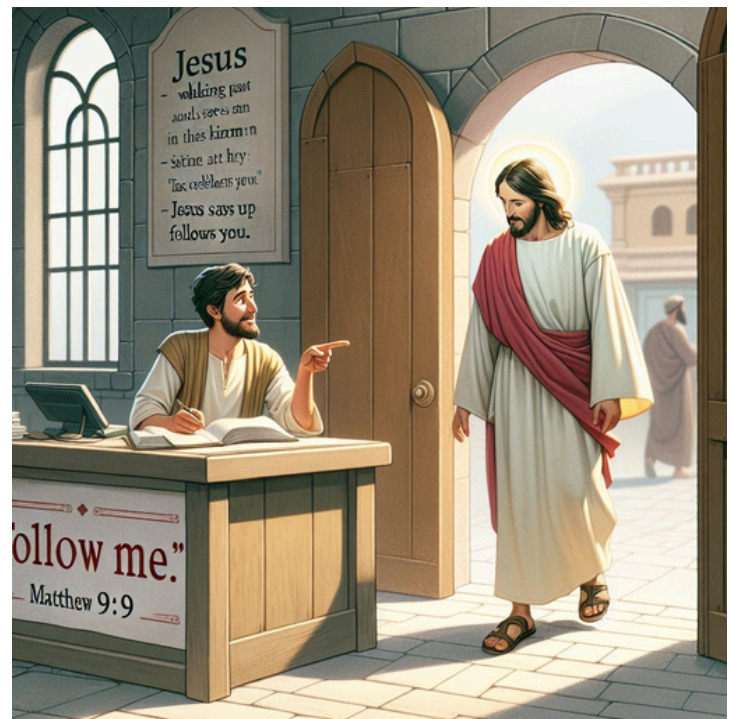
Psalm 33:1-12

“Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth. He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.”



Matthew 9:9-13

“As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ But when he heard this, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’”



Prayers & Praises

June 7, 2026



Song of the Week

In Our Church

Family:

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

Prayers for Monte Dietrick, who had a fall and broke 3 ribs.

Prayers for Cec Burkhart for healing from a fall where she is bruised and had to have stitches by her eye.

Prayers for Bob Throop for continued healing and strength.

Prayers for Roger Vocasek as he looks for a job.

Prayers for Jessica Stehlik-Vocasek for her health issues.

Prayers for Katleynn 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: Iglesia Discipulos de Christo, Omaha -Daniel Zapata

Our Global Ministries in: the Philippines

“Gracious and healing God, when resources are scarce, we pray that you provide enough. When burdens are heavy, it leads us to give thanks for those who help us bear them. When dreams seem distant, breathe new possibility into our lives. Teach us to recognize your presence not only in grand works, but in every faithful touch, every generous gift, and every life restored in hope. Amen”

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



I Come with Joy

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.



JUNE

Call to Confession

One:

When we gather to praise our God, we know—whether we name it or not—that we are people who tend to choose our will over God’s. Seeking God’s power to transform us into new people in Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another, as we pray:

Prayer of Confession

Many:

It is never easy to confess our sins to you, Listening God. When we have a chance to speak up for the outsider, we too often join in sending them away into the wilderness of hopelessness. When we could shout good news to a needy world, our voices drop to a whisper. When we could abound in grace, we continue to wallow in wrongdoing. Forgive us, Lord, and have mercy on us. You lean over to listen to our words, and then to cast them into your sea of forgiveness. You show us the signs of hope, that we might point others to you. Help us remember, you save us when we cannot save ourselves.

Good News of God’s Grace

One:

Do not be afraid. God cherishes us. God treasures you. You are graced, you are forgiven, you are healed.

Many:

We will not keep this good news to ourselves. We will shout our hope from the rooftop of our hearts. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

Amen.



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