



FIRST
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

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Week of July 5, 2026
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Community Prayer

We rejoice, O Christ, for in your tender compassion you shoulder our burdens and ease our heavy hearts. Give us the strength to carry each other as you have carried us.

Amen.

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

Call to Worship

One: We stand here today, in the presence of the Holy:

Many: who will show us the way to hope and grace.

One: We come today to the spring of hope:

Many: where Jesus will draw for us all the living water we can drink.

One: We speak from our hearts, lifting our praise and prayers:

Many: leaning over to listen, the Spirit hears us, filling us with peace.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse
Genesis 24:1-7,10-15,17-20
Leap of Faith

My favorite stories in the Bible are the ones where someone makes a choice that seems outrageous. This is because the person appears to be acting in haste, without first doing due diligence to make sure everything would turn out okay. But, if you pay attention, almost none of the key players in God's unfolding story took the time to thoroughly research God's requests/invitations/summons/or commands before stepping out in faith. Because--even though they had no idea where the journey would take them--they trusted God. And that was enough. Are we willing to take a leap of faith, too? Join us Sunday, to praise God, rest in his presence, and gather with our siblings in Christ. Make worship a part of your week. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Reading

Psalm 45:10-17

“Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father’s house, and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him; the people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts, the richest of the people with all kinds of wealth. The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes; in many-colored robes she is led to the king; behind her the virgins, her companions, follow. With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king. In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons; you will make them princes in all the earth. I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations; therefore the peoples will praise you forever and ever.”

Genesis 24:1-7,10-15,17-20

“Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his house, who had charge of all that he had, ‘Put your hand under my thigh and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, but will go to my country and to my kindred and get a wife for my son Isaac.’ The servant said to him, ‘Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land; must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?’ Abraham said to him, ‘See to it that you do not take my son back there. The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and swore to me, “To

your offspring I will give this land,” he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.”

Then the servant took ten of his master’s camels and departed, taking all kinds of choice gifts from his master; and he set out and went to Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor. He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water; it was toward evening, the time when women go out to draw water. And he said, ‘O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. I am standing here by the spring of water, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. Let the girl to whom I shall say, “Please offer your jar that I may drink,” and who shall say, “Drink, and I will water your camels”—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.’ Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, coming out with her water jar on her shoulder. Then the servant ran to meet her and said, ‘Please let me sip a little water from your jar.’ ‘Drink, my lord,’ she said, and quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, ‘I will draw for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.’ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels.”

Prayers & Praises

July 5, 2026



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 healing for Vince Ortega's sister, Linda De Los Santos, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.

Prayers for Phyllis Thurber, who has been struggling with pneumonia for a while and was recently hospitalized for it and just had a stroke early Sunday morning. She is in the ICU. Prayers for healing and for her family.

Prayers for healing for Kristie Christianson's mom, Lucy Reuter-Masek, after a mild stroke.

Prayers for Monte Dietrick, for continued healing.

Prayers for Cec Burkhart for continued healing.

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 Katelynn 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: Murray Christian Church - James Telgren

Our Global Ministries in: Fiji

Lord, When I Came into This Life

Lord, when I came into this life you called me by my name; today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.

Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast, I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.

In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt, let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.

So help me in my unbelief and let my life be true; feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on you.



“God of Creation, we give thanks for the ministry of Pasifika Communities University. As they learn, teach, research, and lead, deepen their understanding of the gifts you have placed within their cultures and communities. Reveal your wisdom through the knowledge, traditions, and experiences of Pacific peoples, and inspire new generations to treasure and carry them forward. Amen.”

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



JULY

Call to Confession

One:

We spend so much time accusing ourselves, judging ourselves, punishing ourselves for what we have done, or not done. But God would draw us closer to the Heart of forgiveness, that we might be filled with healing and grace. Join me, as we confess where we have missed the mark, praying together:

Prayer of Confession

Many:

What then are we to say about our lives, Searcher of our hearts? We know how often we have duped others with our deceit. We remember how often we promise one thing, only to do the opposite. We struggle to trust you, while we so easily listen to the promises of those who would pull us away from you. Forgive us, Merciful God. Your grace is more powerful than any of our sins, your hope is more durable than our silly choices, your love will traverse anything, and everything, which separates us from you.

Good News of God's Grace

One:

Hear the good news: the One who could accuse us, saves us from sin and death. The One who could condemn us, cradles us in grace. The One who could punish us, prays for us.

Many:

Now we know, there is nothing, not a thing, that can separate us from God. Thanks be to the One who forgives us. Amen.



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