



# WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

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Week of August 2, 2026  
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## Community Prayer

God beyond all seeing and knowing, we meet you in the night of change and crisis, and wrestle with you in the darkness of doubt. Give us the will and spirit to live faithfully and love as we are loved. Amen.

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

One: We come to this place to encounter the One who has called us here.

**Many: This Holy One – our God: is with us in every moment.**

One: God is in our celebrations and joys; our darkest nights of loneliness.

**Many: This God – our Holy God: touches us with the Spirit of hope.**

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Genesis 32:22-31

## *The Transforming Mercy of God*

Someone once told me pain serves an important purpose: it gets our attention so we can see that something is wrong. It changed how I looked at pain, because suddenly it was more than something to avoid at all costs, it was an ally. I've always loved the story of Jacob wrestling with an angel (or was it God himself?). It was only after his long night of wrestling, and a dislocated hip, that Jacob got his blessing. I think this is significant. How often do we do everything in our power to avoid struggle and pain, when in truth it's sometimes only *after* we have emerged from the battle, exhausted and wounded, that we are blessed and can see God's mercy in our midst? Join us for a time of setting down all that we carry, and praising our God of love and grace. There's a place for you at First!

*Pastor Kara*



# Scripture Reading

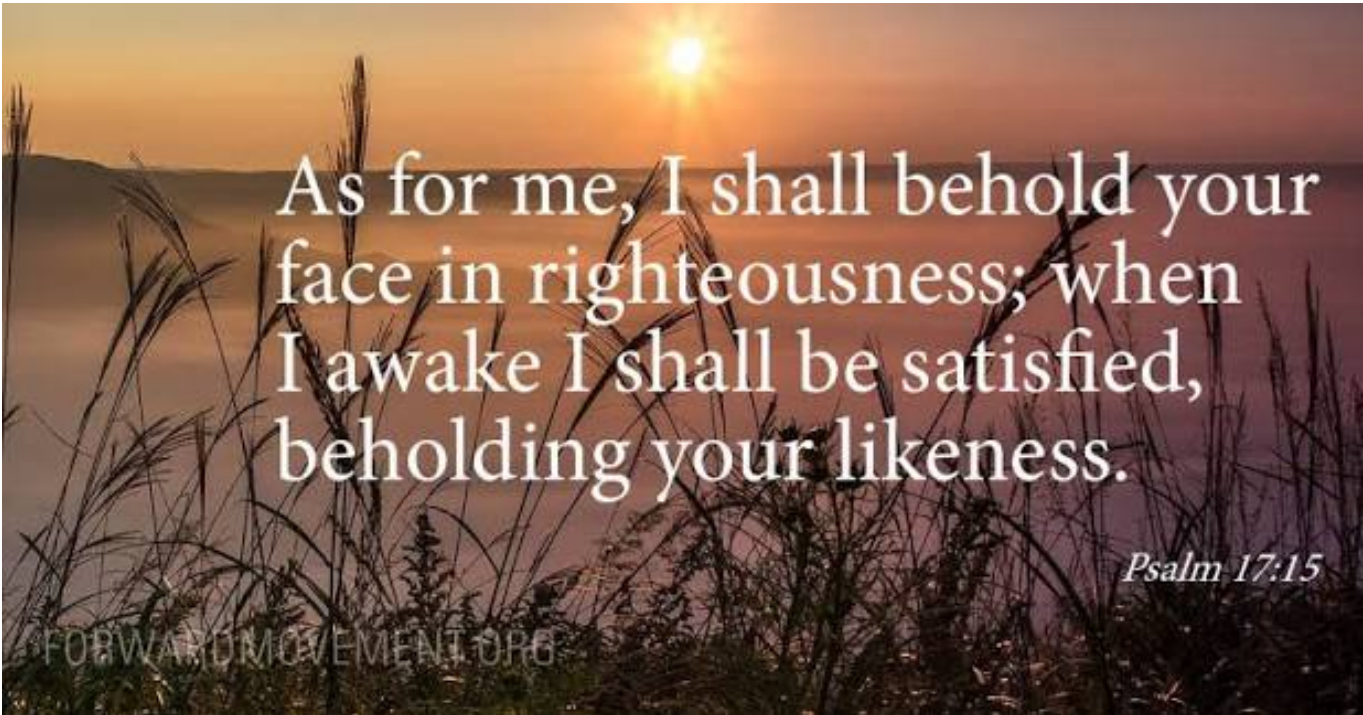
**Psalms 17:1-7,15**

**Genesis 32:22-31**

“Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit. From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right. If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress. As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped. I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words. Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.”

“The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, ‘Let me go, for the day is breaking.’ But Jacob said, ‘I will not let you go, unless you bless me.’ So he said to him, ‘What is your name?’ And he said, ‘Jacob.’ Then the man said, ‘You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.’ Then Jacob asked him, ‘Please tell me your name.’ But he said, ‘Why is it that you ask my name?’ And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, ‘For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.’ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.”



As for me, I shall behold your  
face in righteousness; when  
I awake I shall be satisfied,  
beholding your likeness.

*Psalms 17:15*

# Prayers & Praises

## August 2, 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 Jim Christ's nephew, Dennis Christ, in Oregon. His lymph nodes near the colon section removed showed no signs of cancer. Continued prayers for healing and comfort as he goes through chemotherapy.*

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

*Prayers for Marvin and Phyllis Thurber, who are at Harbor House where she is doing rehab and he is receiving respite care.*

*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:** Pawnee City First Christian Church - Leaders

**Our Global Ministries in:** Indonesia

*"Gracious and Sovereign God, we lift before You the nation of Indonesia in this season of economic, social, and political uncertainty. We pray for their leaders at every level of government. Grant them wisdom, integrity, and courage to make decisions that promote justice, peace, and the well-being of all people, especially those who are most vulnerable. Amen."*

## O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.



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



# AUGUST

## Call to Confession

One:

While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our hotheaded choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words, we are too often like the disciples. Because of this, we come here today to remember that Christ is our Lord, and that he invites us to a better way—his way. Let us confess together our need for his saving presence in our lives.

## Prayer of Confession

Many:

We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you sit beside those with no home. We applaud those who win the race, while you cheer on those who finish last. Forgive us, O Lord, and have mercy upon us. Warm our cold hearts with compassion for all of your children. Give us your grace, that we may faithfully proclaim you as Lord and Savior: the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.

## Good News of God's Grace

One:

Here, face to face, God meets us. Here, face to face, we can speak the truth of our imperfect lives without fear. Here face to face, God forgives us.

Many:

Here, face to face, we meet the One who has great compassion for us, and who forgives us of every sin. Thanks be to God. Amen.



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