First Christian Church

Weekly Worship

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

Mark W. Miller, *Director of Worship, Music & Sacred Arts*
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Week of November 8, 2026

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Community Prayer

You let us choose, O God, between you and the false gods of this world. In the midst of the night of sin and death, wake us from our slumber and call us forth to greet Christ, so that with eyes and hearts fixed on him, we may follow to eternal light. Amen.

"Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, copyright 2002 Consultation on Common Texts"

Call to Worship

One: God has gathered us to this place,

Many: where we hear those stories which show us what the kingdom of God is like.

One: God will send us from this place,

Many: to tell others of God's hopes and dreams, so they, too, can choose to follow God.

Sermon

From The Reverend Dr. Carl Eskridge

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Longing to Be in That Number

We Welcome the Rev. Dr. Carl Eskridge to the Pulpit

This week our guest preacher is the Reverend Dr. Carl Eskridge. A native of North Carolina, Carl attended Austin (TX) and San Francisco (CA) Theological Seminaries. He was ordained by the Presbyterian Church in 1979 and continues to serve in the Lincoln area. Carl is also a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law and served as a State Ombudsman for 25 years and served for 8 years on the Lincoln City Council. He remains active in the community as a mediator with the Lincoln Mediation Center and on the boards of the Lincoln Electric System, Community Action of Lancaster and Saunders Counties, the Foundation for the Lincoln City Libraries, and the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation. Carl's wife, Janet, is an artist, and they have 2 daughters and 4 teenage grandchildren.



Order Your Poinsettias for Christmas 2026

Once again we would like to decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. If you would like to help make this possible, please complete this form.

Name: _____

Number of plants ($15 each):_____ Amount enclosed: _____

In Memory of: _____
or
Honoring: _____

Deadline to order is Sunday, November 15, 2026

You may pick up your plant(s) after the 6 pm Christmas Eve worship service

____ Plant for Homebound _____ Would be willing to deliver to Homebound

Please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate along with your check, made out to First Christian Church, or mail to the FCC office (ATTN: Donna Ruhl).

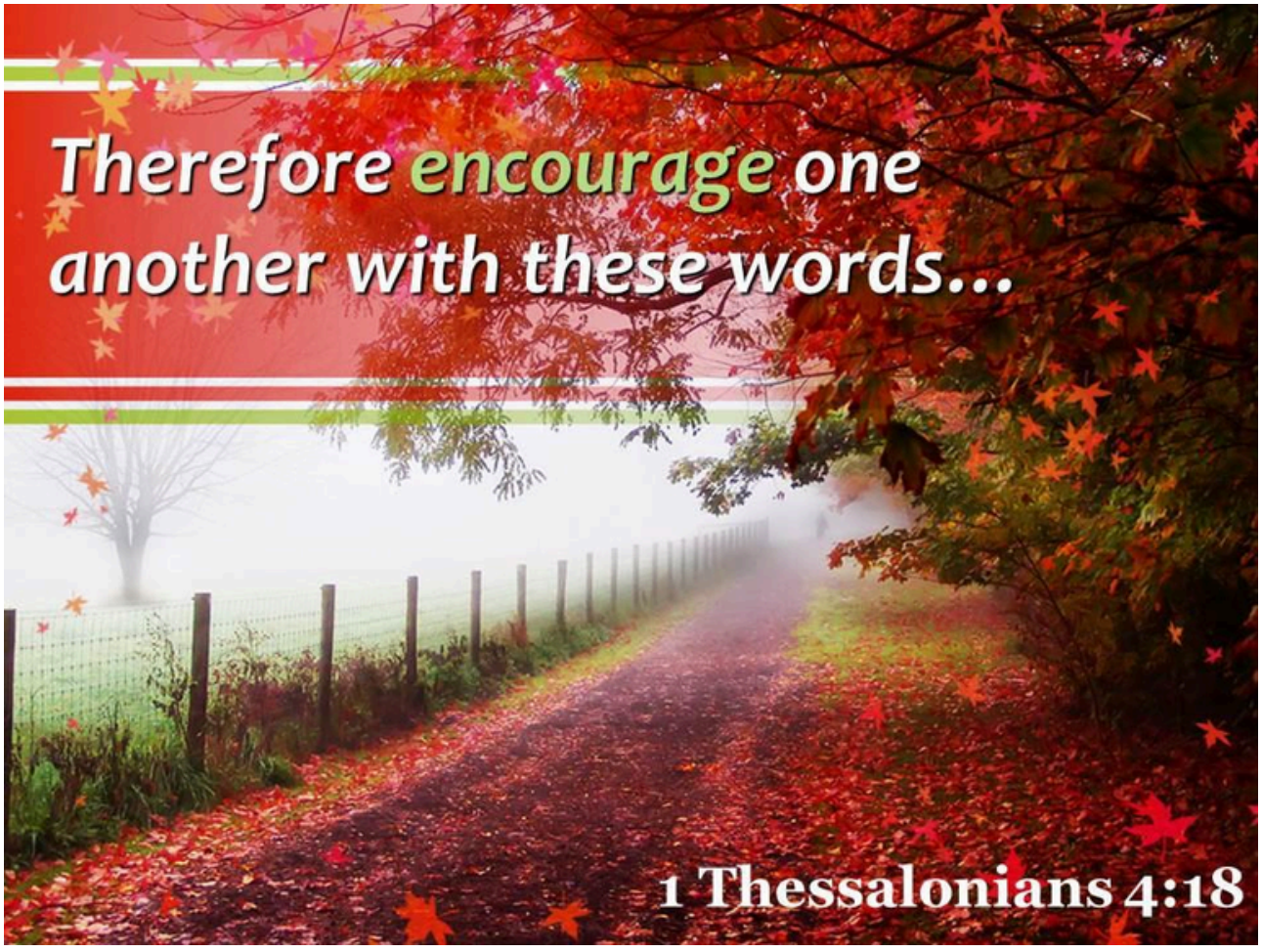
Scripture Reading

Psalm 78:1-7

"Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;"

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words."



Prayers & Praises
November 8, 2026

In Our Church Family:

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

Prayers for Rhonda Ball's son, Andy Ball, recently diagnosed with bladder cancer and is receiving treatment.

Prayers for Rev. Bruce Frogge, Stephanie Frogge's brother, who has been diagnosed with a serious bone marrow disease. Further genetics testing is in progress to determine type and treatment plan.

*Prayers for Jim Christ's nephew, Dennis Christ,*who has been moved to a hospital in San Francisco, CA, for further testing on the infectious disease he is battling.

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 have moved to Salt Creek Senior Living.

Prayers for Diane Zabokrtsky's mom, Elaine Clayton, who was in the hospital and has returned home.

Prayers for John Burkhart, who is recovering from heart rhythm issues.

Prayers for Cec Burkhart for continued healing.

Prayers for Bob Throop for the sale of his former home before the end of the year.

Prayers for Roger Vocasek as he looks for a job.

Prayers for Jessica Stehlik-Vocasek for her health issues.

Prayers for Katelyn Long for continued healing and strength.
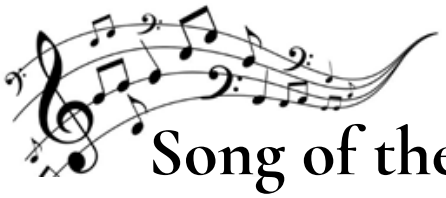
Friends:

- Ron Collamore, *prayers for his health.*

Our Timothy

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, *Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*

In the Nebraska Region: Religious Coordinator - Rachel Johnson



Song of the Week

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood; Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanquish as the shadows clear away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!"



Our Global Ministries in: Samoa

"Creator God, we pray for the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa and for the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa. Strengthen their witness as they care for creation and defend the ocean that connects and sustains their peoples. Give wisdom to leaders making decisions about the future of the deep sea. Amen."

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

NOVEMBER

Call to Confession

One:
We know how easy it is to do exactly the opposite of what we learn from our Teacher, Jesus. So, let us draw near to our God, for in confessing our failures, we will discover the grace and mercy God has in store for us. Join me as we pray together, saying:

Prayer of Confession

Many:
When we come to the edge of your holiness, God of Love, we have to confess how we have not lived as your children. We dam up for ourselves your rivers of love, while the lives of those around us turn into deserts of loneliness. We follow the ways, and the teachings, that are easy, because we won't be inconvenienced for you. Forgive us, Listener of our hearts. By your patient grace, give us strength to practice our calling to discipleship, so we might learn all we need to live as the beloved of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Good News of God's Grace

One:
Listen, my friends! The Good News is that God is in our midst—moving, forgiving, renewing, restoring.
Many:
This day, we choose: to live with hope, to share God's grace, to tell of God's goodness in our lives. Thanks be to God. Amen.



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