



First Christian Church Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

Weekly Worship

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

Rev. Kara Hillhouse, Interim Pastor
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries
Elaine Parman, Care Minister

Week of December 10, 2023
info@fcclincoln.org
www.fcclincoln.org



Community Prayer

God of hope, you call us from the exile of our sin with the good news of restoration; you build a highway through the wilderness; you come to us and bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Lighting the Advent Wreath

One: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
Many: He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many people. Nations will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.
One: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
Many: The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the young yearling together, and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw with the ox. The infant will play near a cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on my holy mountain.
One: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse
Wilderness Times

This week, on our journey to the manger, we meet John the Baptist. He's an odd character to find in the Christmas story, because he comes into play much later in Jesus' life. But it's a perfect Advent text, as John's pronouncement to "prepare a way" is a call away from our everyday routine and rat race, where we often forget the Lord and fall into conformity with the world. The wilderness, both the physical place where John lives and the metaphorical place where we all find ourselves at times, is where the molds of conformity are broken; where we hear and respond to God's message of repentance; acknowledge the rough places in our lives that need to be made smooth in order for God to fully enter our lives; and recommit ourselves to God alone. We need to stand in the sandals of the Baptizer and prepare ourselves and one another for the Lord's coming. A way must be made ready, and this always includes the taking on of a new life: one lived in Christ alone. We hope you'll join us for the second week in Advent, when we'll continue "waiting on the Lord" as we hear the Word, listen to beautiful music, and celebrate the Lord's Supper. See you Sunday!

Second Sunday of Advent



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."



John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Prayers & Praises

December 10, 2023



Song of the week

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Refrain: O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

Refrain: O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace, and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

Refrain: O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.



In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Bobbi Carlin
- Mike Carlin
- William Deterding
- Joan Dietrich
- Sharon Hile
- Polly Putney
- Rae-Hope Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek

Our sympathy to the family of Vic Burgess. Vic passed away Thursday, November 30, 2023. Service arrangements are to be determined.

Friends:

- Jennie & Will Ernest and family. *Tyler Goodrich, the young man missing since November 3rd is Jennie's brother.*
- Tammy Foral, *healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn.*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt.*

Our Timothys:

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, *Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, *Creative Arts Ministry in Lincoln, NE*

In the Nebraska Region: December 3rd and 10th
Other Nebraska Clergy: *Rev. Gary George; Rev. Dr. Paul Williams; Rev. James Harmon; Rev. Hollie Schmidt; Rev. Dr. Russ Seger; Rev. Kate West; Sandy Denton; Gene Merrill.*

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mission Partners in the Dominican Republic

Lord God, who is Father and Mother, I thank you, I bless you, I praise and glorify you for having taken me by the hand to tread a difficult path and make a "Walking" Institution flourish amid aridity to free so many children from sin and the evil of adults.

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