



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 31, 2023
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Community Prayer

God of glory, you have given us a new name and robed us in salvation. May we like Anna find our home in your presence, and like Simeon recognize Jesus as the Christ, so that, in joy and thanksgiving at becoming your children, we may join with all creation to sing your praise. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: Praise the One who spoke and made everything!

Many: Let the rivers ripple with joy;
let the mountains stomp their feet.

One: Praise the One who adopts all of us as children!

Many: We will sing of God’s glory;
we will shout our joy to the heavens.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

My Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation

When Jesus was approximately 40 days old, he and his parents arrive in the temple in Jerusalem to make a sacrifice, according to the Mosaic Law. While there, they have an encounter with a holy man and a prophetess that fills them with awe. These strangers witness to God's faithfulness, by singing of Jesus and all he will do for the world, and saying things that fill Mary and Joseph with wonder. When do you find yourself certain that you are witnessing God's faithfulness? When do you know without a doubt that God has kept His promises to you? When are you called to testify to the power of this faithfulness in your own life? Is it when you find you have made it through a dark time in your life because of God's guidance and presence? Is it when you discover that you still have joy in your heart despite the cancer, despite the heartache, despite the challenges of your journey? Because we each need to lift up God when we feel His presence in our lives and testify to His faithfulness to each one of us. Join us for worship this Sunday, for a time of focusing on the Word of God, refreshing our spirits with music and the Lord's Supper, and being in fellowship with one another. We look forward to seeing you there!



Scripture Readings

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.



Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Prayers & Praises December 31, 2023

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
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek

Our sympathy to the family of Joyce Ball. Joyce passed away December 17, 2023. Joyce is the mother-in-law of Rhonda Ball. Her service will be January 5, 2024 @ 10:30 am at First Lutheran Church, Fremont, NE. Please keep Rhonda and family and Joyce's family in prayer.

Our sympathy to the family of Marj Snodgrass. Marj passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, December 19, 2023. Her service was at FCC on Saturday, December 23rd. Please keep Marj's sons Curt & Steve and their families in your prayers.

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 Burkhart.*

Our Timothy's:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Seminarians and those training for Ministry

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mission Partners in Japan



Song of the week

What Child Is This

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

