



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

The Rev. Kara Hillhouse, Pastor
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries
Elaine Parman, Administrative Assistant

Week of September 29, 2024
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Community Prayer

O God, our guide and help in alien and contentious places: as Esther prayed faithfully and worked courageously for the deliverance of your people, strengthen us to confront the oppressor and free the oppressed, so that all people may know the justice and unity of your realm. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: We will walk this day with you, O God,
and you will walk with us,

Many: gathering us into a community to pray
for one another in all things.

One: We will walk this day with you, O Spirit,
and you will walk with us,

Many: sending us out, side by side, to serve
those cast aside by the world.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Be of Good Courage

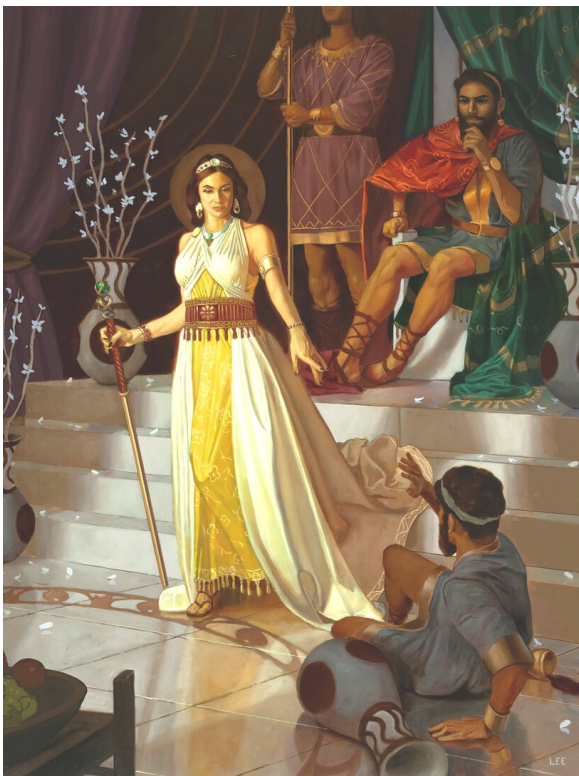
Every week, during our charge and benediction, we hear the words "*be of good courage.*" I used to think that having courage was an indication that someone was doing something heroic, grandiose, something above and beyond the ordinary. Now I believe it takes courage just to get up every morning and live and breathe and walk the walk of faith. It takes courage to follow Jesus. In our story this week from the book of Esther, we see one woman exhibiting courage. We all need the encouragement the Bible provides--stories of ordinary people facing scary and uncertain battles, and who prevail because of God's love and grace. Because we each face our own battles. Join us for worship Sunday where we'll explore what it means to have courage and where our courage comes from. We'll see you at First!



Scripture Readings

Psalm 124

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side - let Israel now say - if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters. Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.



Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me - that is my petition - and the lives of my people - that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and an enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Prayers & Praises

September 29, 2024



Song of the week

I Come with Joy

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven,
loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall, in
love laid down for me, in love laid down for
me.

I come with Christians far and near to find,
as all are fed, the new community of love in
Christ's communion bread, in Christ's
communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends. The love that made
us, makes us one, and strangers now are
friends, and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but
ever near, is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here, alive among us here.

Together met, together bound by all that God
has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one, the love that
makes us one.



In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Bobbi Carlin
- Mike Carlin
- Jim Christ
- Joan Dietrich
- Wayne Duncan
- Ron Hile
- Phyllis Knosp
- Polly Putney
- Rae-Hope Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek

- Bobbi Carlin, *prayers for continued recovery following colon surgery.*
- Wayne Duncan, *prayers for improvement of vision with Madonna rehabilitation therapy.*

Friends:

- Allen Watsek, brother of Gwen Belden is being treated for cancer.
- John Burkhardt, husband of Cecilia Burkhardt has started speech therapy.
- 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 Timothy:

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

In the Nebraska Region: Southview Christian Church - Rev. Kerry O'Bryant

Our Global Ministries Missionaries: The Middle East

"Gracious God, we lift the Middle East region before you, asking for your divine intervention and guidance for the land you blessed by your presence. God, heal this land from division and strife. Defend the vulnerable and voiceless, and bring justice to those who have suffered injustice and violence. May your peace reign in the communities and lead them toward unity and understanding. We pray for the leaders, that your wisdom and grace may guide them in their decisions."

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

