



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 Worship, Music & Sacred Arts
Elaine Parman, Administrative Assistant

Week of December 1, 2024
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Community Prayer

O God of all the prophets, you herald the coming of the Son of Man by wondrous signs in the heavens and on the earth. Guard our hearts from despair so that we, in the company of the faithful and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may be found ready to raise our heads at the coming near of our redemption, the day of Jesus Christ. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: The days are surely coming when God’s promises shall be fulfilled.

Many: When our love for one another and for all God’s children will increase.

One: The days are surely coming when God’s promises are realized in us.

Many: When we will walk the paths of faithfulness and steadfast love.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

In the Beginning

Can you believe that Advent is upon us? This week we'll begin the centuries-old practice of lighting Advent candles (some believe it came into practice in the 1800's, while others claim it goes back to the 1600's) and hearing the stories surrounding Christmas. We begin Advent with a reading from John 1. It focuses on Jesus as *the Word* that ultimately "put on flesh" (was fully human) and became the Light of the World. And then the text immediately jumps to the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry, pointing the way for this *Word* that was to come. As we light the candle of HOPE this week, we are reminded that our hope is in Christ alone, the Word made flesh. Christ, the light of the world. Please join us for worship as we begin the journey to the manger with the first Sunday of Advent. Come and be renewed by the sights, sounds and words of this season. We'll see you at First!



Time to Order Your Poinsettias for Christmas 2024

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, December 1, 2024

You may pick up your plant(s) after the 7 pm Christmas Eve worship service

Please fill out this form and mail to the FCC office (Attn: Donna Ruhl). Please make check out to FCC.

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Stocking Stuffer Gift Cards!

SCRIP cards make a great holiday gift, and now for Christmas, smaller denominations are available for certain retailers.

\$10 Cards From

Amazon - Applebee's - Bath & Body Works - Cheddars - Cracker Barrel - CVS - Dick's Sporting Goods - Disney - Home Depot - IHOP - Marshalls/ Home Goods - McDonald's - Old Navy - Olive Garden - Sam's Club - Sierra - Target - TJ Maxx - Walmart

\$5 Cards From

Barnes & Noble - Cold Stone Creamery - Panera - Starbucks - Taco Bell

Larger denominations are available, too! Scrip orders go out on the first Sunday of each month. December 1st is the last Sunday to order before the holidays!

For a complete list of "national" brands available, please go to <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>.

Purchase of any and all SCRIP supports local businesses and gives a portion of the proceeds back to the church. It's a Win-Win for everyone!

If you have special orders for SCRIP, please get in touch with Donna Ruhl or the FCC Office. Thank you again for participating in our SCRIP Program.

John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Prayers & Praises

December 1, 2024



Song of the week

While We Are Waiting, Come

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.



In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Cecilia Burkhart
- 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
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers for Cecilia Burkhart. She broke her right collar bone in a fall.

Prayers for Roger Vocasek. He dislocated his shoulder and is doing PT while waiting for an MRI approval.

Friends:

- Allen Watsek, brother of *Gwen Belden is being treated for cancer.*
- John Burkhart, husband of *Cecilia Burkhart as he continues to recover and get his speech back.*
- 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:

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

In the Nebraska Region: Youth and Outdoor Ministries

Our Global Ministries Missionaries: Turkey

“As we work towards providing education and care to children like Yaman and Zeynep, who have overcome incredible hardships, we also ask for Your guidance in generating the resources needed to expand our programs. We seek Your blessing on the partnerships we hold dear, and we humbly ask for the continued support that will allow us to bring light to more students and teachers in need, offering hope and a path toward recovery and a brighter future.”

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

