



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 January 5, 2025
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The Staff of FCC wish to thank you for your generous LOVE offering to us for Christmas!

Your kind and generous support encourages us to continue the work we do to support FCC, serve our community and glorify God. We couldn't do our jobs without YOU!

Pastor Kara, Mark Miller & Elaine Parman



Community Prayer

Gracious God, you have redeemed us through Jesus Christ, the first-born of all creation, whose birth we celebrate as the child of Bethlehem. Bless us with every spiritual blessing, that we may live as your adopted children and witness to your glory with unending praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

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

Psalm 60:1-6

O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses; you have been angry; now restore us! You have caused the land to quake; you have torn it open; repair the cracks in it, for it is tottering. You have made your people suffer hard things; you have given us wine to drink that made us reel. You have set up a banner for those who fear you, to rally to it out of bowshot. Give victory with your right hand, and answer us, so that those whom you love may be rescued. God has promised in his sanctuary: “With exultation I will divide up Shechem, and portion out the Vale of Succoth.

Call to Worship

One: We gather wondering, ‘Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?’

Many: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

One: We gather wanting to know, ‘Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?’

Many: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.” See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

The In-Between

The Old Testament sometimes feels like a movie, specifically a romantic drama. In it we find God and His People, in one unending yo-yo relationship. God is sovereign, always, but the people? They were all over the place: sometimes they were good and sometimes they were very very bad, meaning that they were disobedient, fickle, and completely self-absorbed. As a result, things seemed to be "on-again-off-again" in their relationship with God. Thank goodness we're not like that today, right?!! *Right?!* Truth is, we're actually *not* any better, because we, too, are fickle, disobedient and self-absorbed at times. But, as with the Israelites, whom God eventually called home from their Exile, we too live with the belief that God has promised us Peace one day. One day, our wandering through this world will cease and we will finally be home with Him. Until then, we live in the in-between, as this world isn't really our home; rather, our home is with God in his heavenly kingdom. We are in Exile because we have chosen to follow Jesus, and this puts us at-odds with the world. But the good news is that God always calls his children out of exile and back to him. Join us for worship Sunday, where our spirits will be fed with music, fellowship, the Word and Holy Communion. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Prayers & Praises

January 5, 2025



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 Joan Dietrich. Joan was in a car accident December 11th. She is in Tabitha for rehab. If you want to send a card, send to her home address.

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

Friends:

- Maggie Schumacher, *friend of Katelyn Long.*
- 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: ALL Nebraska Congregations and Clergy

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Morocco

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



We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

[Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh; prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.

[Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice: Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.

[Refrain]

