



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
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Week of January 12, 2025
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Community Prayer

God, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, mark us with your images, and raise us to live our baptismal vows empowered by the Holy Spirit and the example of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: Like the soft whisper of a little child singing to herself before anyone else in the house is awake,

Many: God’s voice cradles us with songs of wonder and awe.

One: With the persistence of teenagers and young adults, heady with the newfound freedom of questioning everything,

Many: God’s voice rumbles like a river through our lives, sweeping away all the boundaries between us.

One: Like the grandpa who passes on the secret to his bread, like the grandma who teaches her grandkids how to drive,

Many: God’s voice is always reminding us that we are precious, esteemed, beloved.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Who Am I?

Of our two sacraments, communion and baptism, baptism definitely gets the short end of the stick. Whereas we celebrate communion every single time we gather for worship, baptism is a "one-and-done" thing -- something we do once and only think about when we observe Baptism of the Lord Sunday (which is this coming Sunday) annually. In our baptism, we find our identity. God could have said anything as Jesus came up out of those baptismal waters, but this is what he said: "You are my Son, the beloved, in you I am well-pleased." Likewise, what we remember and celebrate in our own baptisms is that we are God's beloved child -- God has claimed us. And, having taken on the mantle of Christ through our baptism, we then go out and do the work of his Kingdom. Join us for worship this Sunday, for a time of worship, praise, the renewing of our baptismal vows and the stirring of the baptismal waters with our hands as we recommit ourselves to following Christ. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."



Luke 3:15-23a

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work.

Prayers & Praises

January 12, 2025



At the Name of Jesus

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him King of glory now; 'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord, who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season to receive a name from the lips of sinners unto whom he came, faithfully he bore it spotless to the last, brought it back victorious, when from death he passed;

Bore it up triumphant, with its human light, through all ranks of creatures, to the central height, to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast, filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again, with his Father's glory o'er the earth to reign; for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow, and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

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.

Friends:

- Linda DeLosSantos, *sister of Vincent Ortega. Linda was hit by a car on January 1st, and now has suffered a stroke.*
- Maggie Schumacher, *friend of Katelyn Long.*
- Allen Watsek, *brother of Gwen Belden is being treated for cancer.*
- 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: Sierra Leone

"We pray that in your divine timing, issues like food security and energy access will start to improve. Under the current government, the import tax on rice alone has risen from 5% to 10%. Give Sierra Leone the resources it needs to see lasting change, and let those in power be good stewards of the responsibility given to them."



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

