



**First Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ

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# Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

**The Rev. Kara Hillhouse**, Pastor  
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**Week of January 19, 2025**  
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## Community Prayer

O God of steadfast love, at the wedding in Cana your Son Jesus turned water into wine, delighting all who were there. Transform our hearts by your Spirit, that we may use our varied gifts to show forth the light of your love as one body in Christ. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,  
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## Call to Worship

One: When we are lonely, feeling forsaken,  
there is One who knows how we feel:

Many: our God who gathers us up, pulling  
us close to the heart of love.

One: When we are mired in the muck of life,  
when every day seems the same as yesterday,  
there is One who comes to us:

Many: our God who changes our names,  
our God who transforms our lives.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

John 2:1-11

*The Best for Last*

In Jesus' first miracle in the gospel of John we find a glimpse into how Jesus' story is ultimately going to end. It happens at a wedding in Cana, at which Jesus and his disciples, as well as his mom, were guests. In other words, Jesus was "off the clock." But a situation arose, and Jesus was asked to take care of it, and ultimately he did. Something about water and wine: how one was in abundance and the other ran out, but then miraculously reappeared. Then a man with great knowledge of the qualities of wine took a sip of his wine (that used to be water) and said to his hosts, *"Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."* For the first time, as I read this text, it hits me: God saved the best 'til last. All the wine had run dry and guests were starting to get squirmy, until Jesus took care of it and suddenly there's an abundance of wine and it's the best vintage yet!! The best was saved for last. Maybe that's what God is wanting us to take away from this story: our stories might seem hopeless, the circumstances of our lives might make us squirm, all the good things have gone away...but God isn't done with us. The best is yet to come. And although that sounds truly Hallmark-y and trite, it's what Christians believe -- God is saving the best for last! One day, the struggles and brokenness of this world and our lives will be stripped away, in a moment. And God will reveal his "best" that he has been saving for us. Join us for Sunday worship, for a time of renewal, rejuvenation and blessed fellowship. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



# Scripture Readings

## Psalm 36:5-10

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord. How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!



## John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

# Prayers & Praises

## January 19, 2025



## Song of the week

### Here in This Place

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away: here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

### 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

*Praise for Joan Dietrich.* Joan is out of rehab, settling into her “new” home with her daughter. She is feeling better and back to playing cards with friends. Contact the office for her new address.

### Friends:

- Linda De Los Santos, *sister of Vincent Ortega. Linda was hit by a car on January 1st, suffered many bruises and a stroke. Linda is in rehab in Scottsbluff.*
- 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: Brazil

*“God, we praise and exalt your name for your great love revealed to us in Christ Jesus. We cry out for the people of Brazil, who need your grace, mercy, and salvation, especially for the cities and families where the Evangelical Congregational Church of Brazil has the grace and opportunity to proclaim your Good News.”*

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)

