



## First Christian Church Disciples of Christ

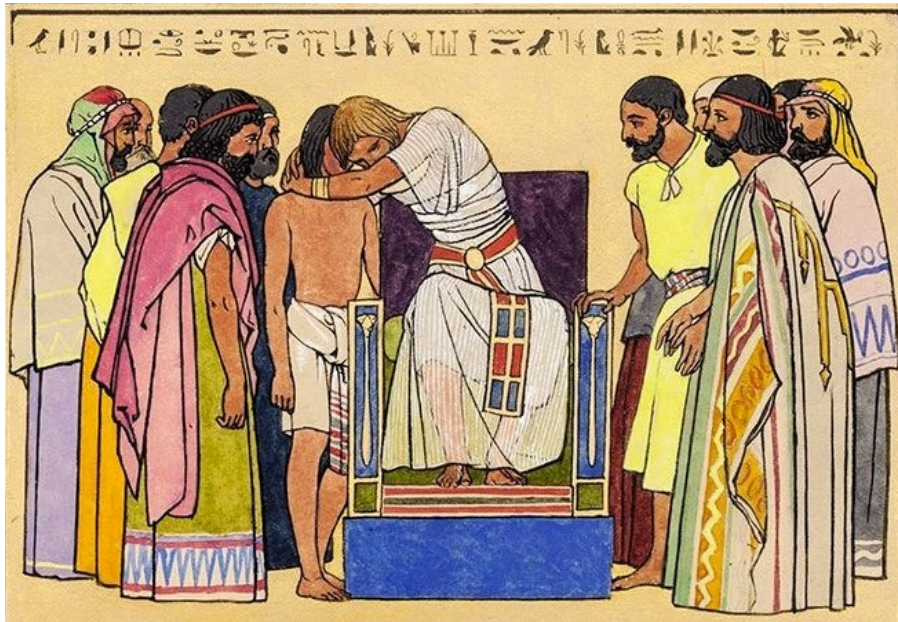
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# Weekly Worship

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

**The Rev. Kara Hillhouse**, Pastor  
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Week of February 23, 2025  
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## Community Prayer

O perfect Love, whose compassionate power transforms sin into health and temporal dust into eternal glory: grant us a gracious faith, so that like Joseph, when he was sold into slavery, we may face our trials with confidence, and become a blessing to friend and enemy alike in Jesus' name. Amen.

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## Call to Worship

One: We come, those who seek to trust in God.

Many: We commit ourselves to do as Jesus would do for those around us.

One: We come, delighting in all the wonders God provides for us.

Many: We would not worry, but open ourselves to God's heart.

One: We come, waiting patiently for God to speak.

Many: We will be still, listening for God's words of hope, of peace.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Genesis 45:1-15

*Meant for Good*

Sometimes we experience something that looks like the absolute worst that could happen, and we are sure - we are *sure* - that no good could ever come out of our pain. And I'm not talking about the small stuff here, I'm talking about "life-changing", "never-the-same-afterwards" kind of stuff. In our story this week we encounter Joseph, who has been through some pretty tough stuff in his young life. Kidnapped by his own jealous brothers, he was almost murdered by them but then at the last minute they sold him into slavery instead. Just your average sibling bickering. But the best part of this story is how it ends! Of course I'm not going to tell you... you'll have to come to worship on Sunday to hear the rest. But I will say this: Joseph might have been in the most hopeless of situations, but God worked through those circumstances to redeem not only him, but also his family. God can take the worst and bring good out of it. In fact, God's *specialty* is taking the worst and bringing something beautiful out of it. Join us for worship Sunday, for a time of learning, listening, fellowshiping and feeding our spirits. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



# Scripture Readings

## Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday. Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret - it leads only to evil. For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity. The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked and saves them because they take refuge in him.



## Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there - since there are five more years of famine to come - so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

# Prayers & Praises

## February 23, 2025



### Song of the week

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness

#### 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 Rae-Hope Putney.* Rae-Hope fell and broke her pelvis. She had surgery 2/17/25. Please mail cards to her home- 3010 S. 51st St. Ct., #11 (68506).

*Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek.* Both are struggling with a variety of health issues.

#### Friends:

- Gina Simpson, *sister of Sara Lugn.* Gina 's surgery went well. Gina and Sara will be heading home soon.
- Jody Schrage, *friend of Katelyn Long.* She is having shoulder surgery.
- Linda De Los Santos, *sister of Vincent Ortega.* Linda is home and continues rehab.
- Tammy Foral, *healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues.* Co-worker of Sara Lugn.

#### Our Timothy:

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

**In the Nebraska Region:** Bellevue Christian Church -Michael Lincoln.

#### Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Marshall Islands

*"Dear Heavenly Father, I pray for families that are still not settled, the ones that are lost and still don't find peace today. I pray for the youth who are lost in this short happiness of life today. Lord, please be in our midst as we come together as your body to lift our country and our leaders. "*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:** Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]



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

