



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 March 23, 2025
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Community Prayer

God of infinite goodness, throughout the ages you have persevered in claiming and reclaiming your people. Renew for us your call to repentance, surround us with witnesses to aid us in our journey, and grant us the time to fashion our lives anew, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: The foolish say, ‘there is no God.’

Many: We come, trusting in Jesus, the face, the voice, the presence of God who loves us.

One: The scoffers of our age ask, ‘why do you seek after God?’

Many: We come, in this time, because God’s grace has spilled over into our lives.

One: The hopeless around us think, ‘no one cares about me.’

Many: We come, in this time, to this place, because Jesus has found us and brought us home.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Luke 15:1-32

Lost!

One of my favorite shows years ago (22 years ago, to be exact--*aaaaack!* *how is that possible?!*) was called "Lost." It was the story of an airplane that crashed into the ocean and the survivors managed to make their way to a nearby island. Each episode showed their efforts to survive the dangers of the island as they tried to get "found" again. It's an appropriate image as we approach this week's lectionary text: the parables of The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and the Prodigal Son. These three stories were Jesus' response to the grumblings of the Pharisees, who complained that "this fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them," when Jesus spent time with people they didn't approve of. Once more, we see the compassionate God responding to the grumblings of those who felt they were more worthy than others. These stories show the image of a God who never gives up on us, never lets us slip through the cracks, never stops searching for us when we are lost, in order to bring us back home to him. Oh, how we need to hear this, as we all feel lost at times. Join us for a time of meaningful worship, where we'll ponder this text, feast at Christ's table, and share in a time of joyful fellowship. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

(Luke 15:1-32 continued)

Psalm 119: 167-176

My soul keeps your decrees; I love them exceedingly. I keep your precepts and decrees, for all my ways are before you. Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word. Let my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise. My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes. My tongue will sing of your promise, for all your commandments are right. Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts. I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight. Let me live that I may praise you, and let your ordinances help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

Luke 15:1-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.'

So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

Prayers & Praises

March 23, 2025



Song of the week

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee: changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.



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. Please keep Rae-Hope and her family in prayer as she is kept comfortable after breaking her pelvis.

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

Friends:

- Sympathy to the family of Tyler Goodrich. Tyler is the brother of Jennie Ernest. His funeral was March 20.
- Gina Simpson, sister of Sara Lugn. Gina is home and gaining strength every day.
- 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.

Our Timothy:

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

In the Nebraska Region: Crossbridge Christian Church—Robert Fugarino

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Jamaica

“Loving God, we lift up to You the people of Jamaica, praying that You may enable us to be a people who will seek to love You wholeheartedly and love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We pray that You will stir the hearts of leaders so that they may lead with wisdom, honesty, and righteousness, seeking to promote the well-being of the people they lead and not simply themselves.”

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

