



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
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Week of May 4, 2025
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Community Prayer

God of victory over death, your Son revealed himself again and again, and convinced his followers of his glorious resurrection. Grant that we may know his risen presence, in love obediently feed his sheep, and care for the lambs of his flock, until we join the hosts of heaven in worshipping you and praising him who is worthy of blessing and honor, glory and power, for ever and ever. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: Sing, all people of God! Sing the good news:

Many: we cry ourselves to sleep and God comes in with the dawn, to awaken us with Joy's embrace.

One: Sing, in heaven and on earth! Sing the good news:

Many: broken, homeless, lost – we cry out to God, who hears our hearts.

One: Sing, all people of God!

Many: We will sing the good news of Easter!

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Acts 9:1-20

Sinner Saint

On our daily journeys, we often look for people who can inspire us and help us aspire to become “better” (in whatever way we might quantify this). In our professional lives, in our personal lives, in our spiritual lives...we seek inspiration from others to keep going. Although I don't *always* appreciate the Apostle Paul, on a foundational level I do admire him, because I can relate to him. He was a little bit self-righteous when we first meet him, but that's because he believed so firmly in what was “right” and what was “wrong” (he was a Pharisee after all) that he felt he was justified in persecuting the early Christians. But then came that dusty road outside Damascus, and everything changed in an instant. Like a lightning strike. Paul was a Sinner-Saint, someone who was imperfect and yet strived to live a life committed to Christ; and we can't help but be inspired by him. Join us for worship this Sunday where we'll learn a little bit more about Paul's encounter with Christ and how that affects us today. Come be fed spiritually and join in a time of fellowship and connection. We'll see you at First!

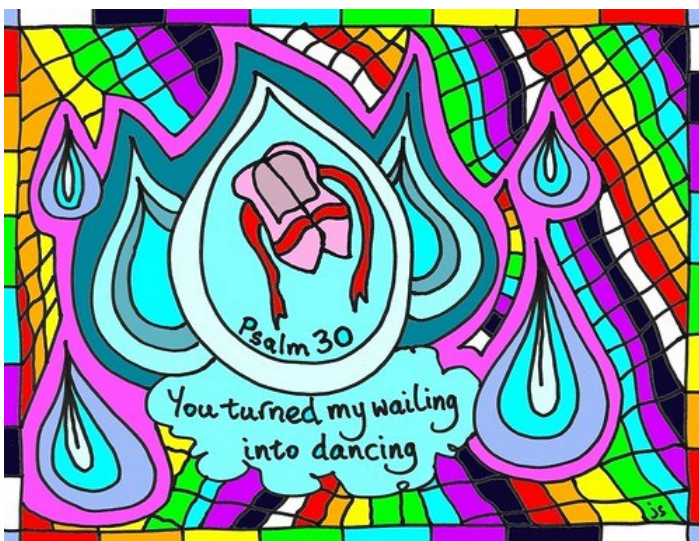
Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Psalm 30

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!" You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.



Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Prayers & Praises

May 4, 2025



Song of the week

Come to the Table

Come to the table, all you who praise God.
Laid in a stable, God's gift of love: Jesus our
Savior poured out his life's blood. Our sins
forgiven, God's gift of love.

Come eat this bread now, my broken body.
My vow remember: I am your Lord. Drink of
this wine, the cup of salvation, for you are
mine, and I am your Lord.

All is now ready, like the first table. Pray for
the Spirit; lift up your hearts. Christ has
arisen, our Lord and Savior. With great
thanksgiving, lift up your hearts.



In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Cecilia Burkhart
- Jim Christ
- Joan Dietrich
- Wayne Duncan
- Ron Hile
- Phyllis Knosp
- Polly Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Sympathy to the Christianson family. Brady's father, Roger passed away April 26th. His funeral will be May 8th. Please keep Brady, Kristie, Hunter, Edryk and the entire Christianson family in prayer.

Prayers for John Christ, brother of Jim Christ. John had stomach surgery last week.

Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek. Roger is recovering from shoulder surgery and Jessica has back issues.

Friends:

- Nikki, friend of Katelyn Long. She is recovering from recent gastric bypass surgery.
- 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: Falls City First Christian Church - Grant Speece (Interim)

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: India

"Lord, we humbly lift our beloved country, India, into your hands. We ask you to shower your blessings upon this land rich in diversity - cultures, languages, and religions. Sovereign Lord, we pray for peace, unity, and harmony among all the people of India. May we live in peace with one another, embracing tolerance, kindness, and love for our neighbors. Father, use us as instruments of your peace and justice.."

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

