



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 18, 2025
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Community Prayer

Alpha and Omega, First and Last, glory outshining all the lights of heaven: pour out upon us your Spirit of faithful love and abundant compassion, so that we may rejoice in the splendor of your works while we wait in expectation for the new heaven and the new earth you promise when Christ shall come again. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Many: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

One: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Many: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

One: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

John 13:31-35

Define This

We're going back in time a bit in our gospel reading this week -back to the night of Jesus' arrest. Jesus was talking with his disciples, right after Judas left to betray Jesus and to share his whereabouts with the authorities who had been itching to arrest him. Ironically, the topic on which Jesus is speaking is love. Jesus watched Judas as he left the Upper Room to betray him, and then talked with his disciples about love? Not just any love -the same love he'd preached about for several years: the one that was so transformative it was about to get him killed. Maybe we should call it a dangerous love, because it certainly seems risky to love at times. But we need to hear about this radical love -this New Commandment -because without it people will not know we follow Jesus. *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"* (John 13:34). As Rev. David Lose puts it, these challenging words from Jesus "need to be preached again and again because when they are spoken, heard, and lived, we find ourselves in that foreign land and strange country of mercy and grace we call the kingdom of God." Join us for worship Sunday, for a time of being still and listening for God's still-living Words. Come be re-fueled by a time of worship, fellowship and feasting at the Lord's Table. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!



John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”



Prayers & Praises

May 18, 2025



Song of the week

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them. Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluia! Alleluia! so now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you, that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true. Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.



In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- 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. His funeral was May 8th. Please keep Brady, Kristie, Hunter, Edryk and the entire Christianson family in prayer.

Prayers for Hunter Christianson. Hunter had knee surgery last week and is recovering well.

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

Friends:

- Jeanne Schruck, mother of Meghan Schruck Cowger. Jeanne is having lung surgery on June 9th.
- Nikki, friend of Katelyn Long. She is recovering from recent gastric bypass 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: Grand Island First Christian Church—Tamara Holtz—Interim

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Puerto Rico

"Lord Jesus, on this day, we come before You with humble hearts to present our beloved island of Puerto Rico in prayer. Amid so many difficulties and uncertainties, You have called us to love one another without distinction of political, religious, or other beliefs. Therefore, we ask that this commandment be planted in the heart of every Puerto Rican, family,

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

