



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 July 27, 2025
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Community Prayer

Father in heaven, in your goodness you pour out on your people all that they need, and satisfy those who persist in prayer. Make us bold in asking, thankful in receiving, tireless in seeking, and joyful in finding, that we may always proclaim your coming kingdom and do your will on earth as in heaven. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: It is in this place of holiness that we can come with our fears, our doubts, all the questions of our hearts.

Many: We come to this place, to hear the words of peace, of hope, of joy God speaks to us.

One: It is in this place of openness that we can come knocking.

Many: We come to this place, to be embraced by the One whose heart is never locked.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Luke 11:1-13

The Theology of Prayer

How we pray to God reveals a lot about our theology: what we believe is the nature of God. Our text this week comes from Luke 11, where we find Jesus praying. When he is finished, his disciples ask him to teach them, so they will know how to pray as well. And the words Jesus teaches them are, of course, the words we use in what we call the Lord's Prayer (or part of it—the Scripture is shorter than the prayer we pray). After this, the text continues with two stories about the nature of God, both speaking of God's generosity towards us in providing for our needs. "*Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.*" I confess it feels too good to be true, because I've asked and not received; I've searched and not found; I've knocked and...nothing. What does that mean about the nature of God? Sometimes we need to reframe how we approach prayer. I find what Rev. Dr. Jennifer Wyant writes helpful. She says, "prayer is not primarily about results, but about trust. Not about saying the right words, but about staying in relationship with the One who loves us. We knock because we believe someone is listening. We ask because we believe the Father loves us as children and that the good gift of the Holy Spirit is ours." Join us for worship Sunday, where we'll open our hearts to hearing God's Living Word anew, gather in fellowship and feast at the Lord's Table. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Readings

Psalm 85

“Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us. Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.”



Luke 11: 1-13

“He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.’

And he said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.” And he answers from within, “Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.” I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. ‘So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’ ”

Prayers & Praises

July 27, 2025

In Our Church Family:

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

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

Friends:

- Sympathy for Ron Collamore, Ron's cousin, Johnny, was killed in California.
- Jody Schrage, friend of Katelyn Long. She is hospitalized in Wyoming.
- 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: North Side Christian Church, Omaha - Jonathan Wilhoft

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Mexico

"Beloved Heavenly Father, Creator of all that exists, on this occasion and with all humility, we pray for the peace of our beloved Mexico, the peace that only you have the power to grant through people of goodwill. Our Father, who art in heaven and who does your will on earth as it is in heaven, we ask that you continue to give us the spiritual strength to continue serving our communities affected by HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis here at Albergue las Memorias A.C. in Tijuana, Mexico."

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



The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is his new creation by water and the word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride. With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth. One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?" And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore: till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek, and lowly, may live eternally.

