



**First Christian Church**

Disciples of Christ

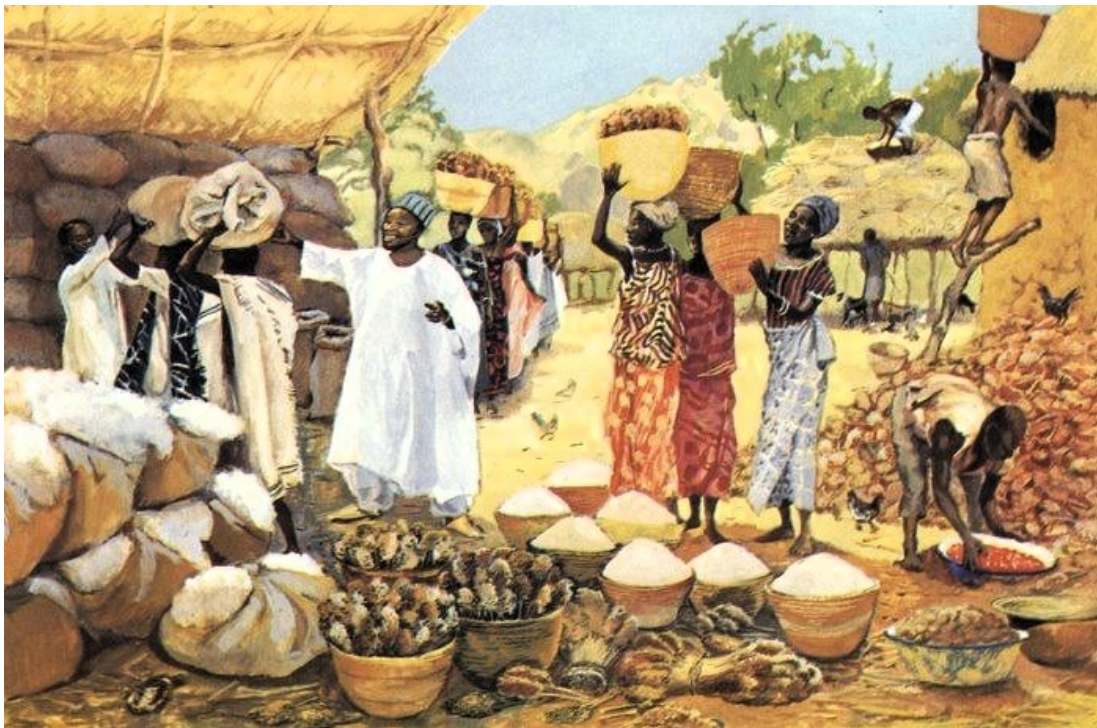
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## Weekly Worship

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

**The Rev. Kara Hillhouse**, Pastor  
**Mark W. Miller**, Director of Worship, Music & Sacred Arts  
**Amy Johnson**, Administrative Assistant

**Week of August 3, 2025**  
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### Community Prayer

Generous Giver, you pour forth your extravagant bounty without measure upon your whole creation. Teach us such generosity, that the fruits of our spirits and the works of our hands may be used for the building of your commonwealth of blessing. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,  
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### Call to Worship

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,

Many: for God’s steadfast love endures forever.

One: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble;

Many: They cried to the Lord in their trouble, and God delivered them from their distress.

One: Let us thank the Lord for God’s steadfast love, For God satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Luke 12: 13-21

*Empty Abundance*

One of my top two--if not my top--*least favorite* kinds of scriptures for me to preach on are those in which Jesus talks about money. I bet it's difficult for you too. It's difficult because I am privileged: I have a home, and I have money for bills and food (and non-necessities too, at times). I read Jesus' words and struggle to understand what I'm supposed to take away from what he said, and, honestly, I feel ashamed. But, as I study these scriptures, what I keep coming back to is that money, in and of itself, is not inherently evil. What matters is how we use it, and whether we are aware that our gain can sometimes be another's loss. In our text this week, Jesus shares the Parable of the Rich Fool. The final verse of his story shows God saying to the rich man, "*You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?*" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God." The man had so much excess he had to build new barns in which to store it, while others went without. That was the sin. For us, today, to hear this text, we have to do some honest, probably pain-filled, soul-searching, about what we prioritize. But even in the midst of our struggles to understand, God is good! And what Jesus invites us to is a more joyful way of living. Join us for worship this Sunday, for a time of fellowship, rejuvenation, and God's Living Word. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



# Scripture Readings

## Psalm 107: 1-9, 43

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.”

## Luke 12: 13-21

“Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.’”





# Prayers & Praises

## August 3, 2025

### In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Mike Carlin
- 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.*

*Prayers for Cecilia Burkhart for the passing of her brother James.*

### 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:** Omaha First Christian Church - Joshua Sawyer

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Republic of Congo

*"We take this opportunity to commend our country, Congo, into your hands so that you, through Jesus Christ, grant peace and that the Holy Spirit fills the authorities so that this country will lead according to your will. We pray for the Congolese people in general and our faithful in particular. Give us faith and help us not worry but seek the kingdom of heaven by believing in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and the rest will be added to us. We pray to you for evangelization in Congo and for our partners so that we may support your mission. We pray to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."*

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



### Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven, to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given: the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

